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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Hurricane Charley aid: President Bush will ask Congress for \$2 billion to help victims of Hurricane Charley, the administration said Thursday.

Bush will make the announcement Friday during a visit to Miami, a senior administration official said on condition of anonymity.

Bush will send Congress the request for emergency supplemental appropriations, which will be used primarily for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Mike Wallace incident: New York City's Taxi and Limousine Commission said it would not pursue a disorderly conduct charge against 86-year-old CBS newsmen Mike Wallace, who was arrested earlier this month during a confrontation with inspectors outside a Manhattan restaurant.

The "60 Minutes" correspondent was handcuffed and taken to a police precinct on Aug. 10 after he and his driver clashed with inspectors while Wallace picked up a take-out order at a restaurant.

Wallace said he left the restaurant to find two inspectors interviewing his driver, who they said was double-parked. He said he asked the inspectors what was going on and they told him to get back in the car. They arrested him after he pressed them further, he said.

World

Asian bird flu: More money and global attention should be focused on bird flu in Asia to study the virus, which experts fear could mutate and trigger a human pandemic, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

Vietnam suffered the highest human death toll — 16 people — when the disease broke out in Asia earlier this year. Three more died here last month when the dangerous H5N1 strain struck again, bringing the total to 19.

The WHO's representative in Vietnam, Hans Troedson, urged wealthier countries to fund more research to answer questions surrounding the disease.

Turkish Cyprus unrest: A bomb exploded before dawn at a Greek Orthodox church in Turkish-occupied north Cyprus on Friday, causing damage but no injuries, authorities said.

Officials said anti-Greek slogans were scribbled on the church.

The attack followed reports in the Turkish Cypriot press that Turkish Cypriot extremists



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Annual Fun Fest: Petty Officer 1st Class Norman Delossantos, a sailor with Misawa Naval Air Facility's environmental department, cooks up hamburgers and hot dogs at Friday's Navy Fun Fest in Lefthand Park on Misawa Air Base, Japan. Delossantos said food preparers were to make 500 hamburgers and 400 hot dogs to feed the hungry crowd.

ist groups had vowed to try to prevent services planned next week at the Saint Mamas church to celebrate its namesake's saint's day.

Mehmet Ali Talat, the premier of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state recognized only by Turkey, said authorities would press forward with the first service at the church in decades, planned as a gesture of reconciliation between ethnic Turks and Greeks.

North Korea nuclear talks: South Korea's top envoy to North Korea will travel to the United States for high-level talks amid stalled negotiations on getting the communist nation to give up its nuclear weapons program, officials said Friday.

Unification Minister Chung Dong-young will leave Monday for Washington and meet with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, a ministry spokesman said on condition of anonymity.

The two countries want to resolve the nuclear issue with the North in talks that also include China, Japan and Russia. However, the next round of negotiations scheduled to take place by the end of September has been thrown into doubt because the North says it

won't attend preparatory meetings.

Pakistani elections: Pakistan's parliament elected Shaukat Aziz, former finance minister and close ally of President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, as prime minister on Friday amid an opposition boycott of the vote.

Aziz received 191 votes in the 342-seat National Assembly, or lower house.

Opposition contender, Javed Hashmi, who is serving a 23-year jail term for attempting to instigate an army rebellion against Musharraf, failed to win any votes.

Opposition lawmakers abstained from voting after the house speaker rejected a request for him to be temporarily freed to attend the election.

Thatcher extradition: Equatorial Guinea has asked South Africa to extradite Mark Thatcher, son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who is under house arrest for his alleged role in a coup plot against the West African nation.

South African authorities arrested the 51-year-old businessman at his home in Cape Town home on Wednesday and charged him with helping to finance a plot to overthrow President Teodoro Obiang of oil-rich Equatorial Guinea.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL
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'We're raising the bar academically'

DODDS to welcome back students with beefed-up requirements, new courses

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Across the Pacific on Monday morning, alarm clocks will screech, and sleepy students will board buses, anticipating reunions with friends, dreading the first homework assignment and ruing the end of summer.

It's back-to-school time for more than 20,000 students in 41 Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific schools.

Many changes are in store for the 2004-05 school year, from improved science labs to more course offerings and stricter academic requirements. Math geniuses might delight in a new, third-year math class offered at the high school level, while language arts lovers can read literature from around the world in a new honors English dual course for sophomores.

Perhaps the biggest change impacts freshmen: The Class of 2008 will be the first required to earn 26 credits — instead of 24 — to graduate. This year's ninth-graders also will need a cumulative 2.0 grade point average to don cap and gown — a requirement that went into effect last year for the Class of 2007.

"We're raising the bar academically," said Stephanie Steadman, freshman counselor at Kadena High School on Okinawa.

"We've increased the requirements for math, we've increased graduation requirements, and we've put a mandatory GPA on high school graduation."

DODDS Pacific Deputy Director Steven Bloom said the more rigorous academics are to "ensure that DODDS Pacific graduates are highly competent in terms of their ability to apply to any college, university or technical program."

DODDS Pacific is also expanding its professional technical program, offering at some high schools a two-year certification course in culinary arts and lodging management.

The program prepares juniors and seniors for post-secondary employment and training opportunities in restaurants and hotels, said Ed Pfeiffer, DODDS Pacific deputy chief of education. "It doesn't matter whether you're college-bound or non-college-bound."

Projected enrollment numbers as of Aug. 1 for the school year stand at 25,769, a count that includes Japan (10,895), Okinawa (8,494), South Korea (3,819), and — new to DODDS Pacific — Guam (2,561). The addition of Guam, students raises the total enrollment over last year's 25,117 students.

"We're not there yet," Bloom said, noting that 24,154 students are enrolled through the Pacific, but the numbers usually peak by Sept. 30.

A dozen new principals and assistant principals will greet students at schools Monday, but the biggest administrative change in DODDS Pacific is the addition of the Guam district.

On July 1, DODDS Pacific assumed administrative control of Guam's Defense De-

partment schools from Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools' headquarters in Peachtree, Ga. The transfer places all overseas DOD schools in the Pacific under the same leadership; Guam schools remain under DDESS in name only.

Here's a look at new requirements, programs and courses across DODDS Pacific this year:

Math, English and more

"The theme for the school year is 'Math Matters,'" Bloom said. "For the last year, we have placed continued emphasis on math support for students in high school."

This year, that support translates into math labs for Algebra I, geometry and third-year math at all DODDS Pacific high schools. Pre-Algebra was eliminated, though algebraic concepts are infused with math standards for grades five through eight, Bloom said.

Students are identified for a lab based on their TerraNova math scores: Anyone scoring below the 50th percentile is placed in the appropriate lab unless their parents request otherwise.

"We have five labs for Algebra I, and they're all full," Steadman said of Kadena High School. "We will open more labs if there's a need."

"It's not punitive. It's certainly to help them," she said.

Discrete Math is a new third-year math course covering topics such as polling and analyzing populations, systems management and theoretical problems.

In the arts, sophomores may enroll in a new English honors program that integrates two courses: Honors English 10 with emphasis on world literature and Honors World History with emphasis on world literature.

"At the same time they're learning about world cultures, they're reading the literature of that culture," Bloom said. "It's a two-book block of very rigorous, academically challenging work in English and social studies."

While high-schoolers tackle new math and English offerings, reading and the Pacific Literacy project is a focus in kindergarten through sixth grade. The three-layer intervention program provides quality core instruction and support for struggling readers, Bloom said.

"The whole key is to accurately diagnose the reading problems and then provide really focused and targeted intervention," he said. The program, among other things, places a literacy facilitator in each school to help teachers and specialists with their approach to poor readers.

Tougher road to graduation

Incoming ninth-graders now must earn 26 credits — instead of 24 — to graduate, with an additional half-credit of physical education and 1.5 electives also required. Students also are required to earn two credits in professional technical studies, half of which must be in computer technology.



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Teacher Carrie Jackson organizes her books in preparation for the new school year at Yokosuka Middle School, Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. Among the new offerings at DODDS schools this year is a Web-based planning program for students 13 and older designed to help them plan for college and careers.

Facility upgrades around the Pacific

No new schools are opening this school year in DODDS Pacific, but construction is scheduled to begin early next year on a \$26.9 million high school on Guam, according to DODDS Pacific officials. Estimated completion date is July 2006.

A new McCool elementary and middle school is also planned for DODDS Pacific on Guam; \$39.1 million is budgeted for the project expected to finish by July 2007.

Other major construction includes: ■ A \$7.6 million building addition at Taegu Elementary and High School at Camp George, South Korea, by July 2007.

■ The current Seoul Elementary, Middle and High schools in South Korea are to be replaced by 2008, with new location to be determined; U.S. Forces Korea is to coordinate any relocation plans, according to DODDS Pacific officials.

■ The existing Lester Middle School on Camp Lester, Okinawa, is to be returned to the government in Japan and replaced on Camp Foster, west of the new post office, by July 2010.

Many facilities upgrades during the summer. Yokota High School, Japan, starts the new school year with five renovated science labs, a \$589,000 project. Also at Yokota, work began this summer on new classroom additions at Yokota East and West elementary schools to help meet requirements for full-day kindergarten and a reduced teacher-pupil ratio of 1 to 18 in grades one through three, DODDS Pacific officials said. In total, about \$15.5 million was funded this summer for major construction, renovation, repair and maintenance projects, from playground replacements and power upgrades to roof repairs.

— Staff reports

school graduation and beyond.

"It helps kids frame and focus their decisions so they can fulfill their post-secondary plans and dreams," Mahon said.

Tips include considering National Honor Society if one is college-bound and maintaining a résumé all four years of high school to make the process of seeking teacher recommendations easier.

Steadman said schools began issuing the packet about three years ago but this year it's revised and updated with much more information.

"Parents are the ones that just go crazy about it," she said. "They can actually see there's just a few more years and Johnny needs to have a plan in place so he has a direction after high school."

Complementing the six-year planner is "My Road," a Web-based college- and career-planning program for middle- and high-schoolers. Students 13 and older will receive accounts this fall to enable them to log in and use the program at school or at home. They'll be able to complete personality assessments, explore careers and college majors based on interests, search colleges, read advice from career professionals, maintain student portfolios, and much more, Mahon said.

College applications also are available at the site.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@stripes.osd.mil

The two extra credits, along with the mandatory 2.0 GPA, means students will have to work harder, Steadman said. Athletes and anyone else who participates in extracurricular activities already must maintain a 2.0 GPA on a weekly basis, she said. "It's just putting that requirement to all the students."

With DODDS students so transient, it remains to be seen what will happen when a senior transfers to a DODDS Pacific school with less than a 2.0. Bloom said in that case, the student and parent would be invited to discuss the issue with the principal or counselor, perhaps looking at alternative ways to meet the requirements.

Mapping out their futures

For teenagers who only think ahead to next week's big meet or exam, or those overwhelmed by post-secondary choices, help is on the way. This fall all students in grades seven through 12 will receive a three-part packet, entitled "Preparing for Your Future Now," developed by Department of Defense Education Activity and Military Child Education Coalition, said Angela Mahon, DODDS Pacific pupil personnel services coordinator. The packet includes two CD-ROMs and an "academic passport" booklet that provides parents and students tips, ideas and recommendations for plotting a successful course to high

Officials say Pacific schools reaching goals

By FRED ZIMMERMAN

Stars and Stripes

The Department of Defense Education Activity Community Strategic Plan is pretty much right on target in Pacific Schools. That's the message from Department of Defense Dependents Schools Pacific Division officials.

The plan is divided into four goals: highest student achievement, performance-driven, efficient management systems motivated, high performing, diverse workforce, and network of partnerships promoting achievement.

The school's five-year plan, implemented in 2001, was designed via committee, according to Peggy Bullion, chief of the Pacific Education Division.

She said educators, administration personnel and service members came together to create the plan.

The plan is "administered at all levels," said Bullion, who added that schools can change strategies to fit their needs, but they can't change the goals. "It's all geared toward each student meeting the curriculum standards."

Students meeting the standards is the first goal. Bullion said student progress is gauged throughout each school year. She said the most widely recognized is the TerraNova—a standardized achievement test given to students in grades three to 11. The test covers reading/language arts, math, science and social studies.

"The Community Strategic Plan gives us the milestone that we must strive for, which is fewer than 8 percent in the bottom quarter," Bullion said. "We still have several areas that we have not met

our goals—in the lower grades third through fifth—so there is still a small percentage of students still in the bottom quarter."

Bullion said the other side of that goal is to score 75 percent of students in the "at the standard" category, which is the top half of those tested. While Bullion said the system hasn't quite reached the goal, they still have some time, as it's outlined in the plan to be met by October 2006.

Helping to reach the first goal is the second—performance-driven, efficient management systems. According to the CSP, this goal gives educators the resources and a safe learning environment. Walter Smiley, Pacific chief of the fiscal division, said this goal drives all others.

He said when you give teachers the tools they need and a good environment to teach in, it creates a positive energy that's passed on to the students and community.

"With us working with the schools, we help motivate the performance workgroup (third goal), which works it's way up and facilitates the other goals," Smiley said.

Smiley said some examples of the second goal are the fact that the system is on a seven-year renewal cycle for each course and the technology the schools incorporate. He also said the district has an average of one computer for every 21 students.

And the district's efforts to continually train its staff and improve courses help reach the goals, Bullion said. That's how the district tries to improve the areas that students test low in.

New programs this year include multiple reading initiatives,

additional math training for teachers and several new initiatives for high school students to help prepare for college, Bullion said. She added that middle school students will be able to explore the options and look at various career fields so they can begin to map out their future.

Also new this school year are science programs in all DODDS schools, Bullion said. Science teachers are all going through training on science standards and new materials, and the schools have received new books, resource kits and equipment.

The fourth goal of building a network of partnerships that promote achievement focuses on building stronger local communities.

"Every school has their own school improvement process... they continually improve communication and the amount of support they get and give," Bullion said. "The ones that do have the most impact."

By sticking to the plan, the school knows exactly where it's heading, according to Smiley.

"We could go in a million different directions," he said. "But our Community Strategic Plan is our guide to keep us on course."

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New faces in the Pacific

Pacific administrators new to their current location for the 2004-05 school year:

Principals

Japan District
Yokota West Elementary School: Lee Kirsch, reassigned from education specialist at Yokota District Office.

Okinawa District
Bob Hope Primary School: Bud Iles, reassigned from principal of C.T. Joy Elementary School.

Korea District
Seoul High School: Kathleen Barbee, reassigned from principal of Pusan Elementary School/High School.

Taeju Elementary/High School: Helen Bask, promoted from assistant principal at Kinrick High School.

Pusan Elementary/High School: Keith Henson, reassigned from principal of Seoul High School.

C.T. Joy Elementary School: Ray Paulson, reassigned from principal of Taeju Elementary/High School.

Guam District
Guam High School: Rita Williams, reassigned from education specialist at DDESS headquarters.

Assistant principals
Japan District
Kinrick High School: David Tran, reassigned from assistant principal at M.C. Perry High School.

M.C. Perry High School: Kevin O'Brien, promoted from teacher at M.C. Perry Elementary School.

Yokosuka Middle School: John Graham, promoted from teacher at Incirlik High School. Yokota Middle School: Gail Anderson, reassigned from assistant principal at Zama High School.

Okinawa District
Kadena High School: Joyce Diggs, promoted from teacher at Seoul High School.

Korea District
No changes
Guam District
No changes

Source: DODOS Pacific Headquarters, Okinawa

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Parents urged to play active role in school

BY FRANKLIN FISHER
Stars and Stripes

Although teachers at Pacific DODDS schools are poised to meet the thousands of students who'll file into the classrooms for another school year Monday, they're no less ready to forge important contacts with the parents, school officials said.

"We are committed to partnership with parents," said Steven R. Bloom, deputy director of DODDS Pacific. "We view school and learning as a shared responsibility. In order for schooling to be most effective for students, parents and teachers need to have ongoing communication," he said.

And the best person to make that partnership with is the classroom teacher, Bloom said.

"Throughout the Pacific, we want parents to feel at home in our school," said Bloom. He said parents need to be in contact with their child's teacher and not to be afraid of initiating dialogue with them. "They (parents) need to become familiar with the standards and expectations at their child's grade level."

Contacting teachers, principals, guidance counselors or other school officials should be a straightforward matter, and is the same process, more or less, throughout the Pacific, the officials said.

"Each school generally has its own process," said Petty Bullion, chief of the Pacific Education Division. "Generally, though, the parents just need to call the school office, ask for a telephone conversation or an appointment with the child's teacher."

At secondary schools especially, guidance counselors often play a key role in setting up meetings between parents and teachers or other school officials, Bullion said.

"We also encourage parents to attend orientation [or other] back-to-school events most of our schools sponsor at the beginning of the year," Bloom said.

Some schools hold picnics the Saturday before school starts. Others may hold an open house early in the school year.

Kindergarten and pre-kindergarten Sure Start program pupils aren't left out either, officials said.

"In DODDS Pacific, our kindergarten and Sure Start programs incorporate a home visit, which provides an opportunity

for parents and teachers to meet and get to know the child better," said Jane Schneider, DODDS Pacific elementary curriculum specialist. "It varies by location or by school but typically it occurs within the first weeks of school."

As the school year progresses, parents typically have a broad range of questions for teachers and DODDS officials, Bloom said.

"At the beginning of the school year there are so many questions that range from transportation to lunchroom procedures. There's no one issue we could single out as being most asked," said Bloom.

Parents can also visit the DODDS Pacific Web site, which has links to individual schools: www.pac.dodedda.edu

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DODDS students post gains on standardized test

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Students in the military's school system have made "significant gains" on a standardized test that measures progress in core subjects of math and reading, according to education officials.

Between 2002 and 2004, students in the Department of Defense Education Activity system, which includes students both in overseas schools and military schools in the United States, showed increases in the "above the standard" and "at the standard" levels of the TerraNova standardized test, which measures student progress in core curriculum subject areas.

A contributing factor to the increase in scores is the school system's special focus in three areas in the past few years, said Janet Roke, the administrator for System Accountability and Research at DODEA, headquartered in Arlington, Va.

"First is a focus on our high school programs. We have added new, more demanding courses, increased our graduation requirements, and provided teachers with training to help them meet student learning needs for all students," she said.

A few years ago, the system focused on reading programs for all students. Last year, math was the focus.

"We are developing more specific descriptions of what students need to know

and be able to do in the field of math," she said.

For example, a section from the sixth grade standards requires students to solve problems that use rational numbers, interpret and use ratios and find and use prime factorization of composite numbers.

"DODEA has also focused on our students with special learning needs. We have removed some of the nonessential responsibilities from our special education teachers, which gives them more teaching and learning time with their students."

Last year, the system hired 96 educators whose primary role is to administer diagnostic tests to special-needs students, she said. Before, special-education teachers ad-

ministered those tests.

A rough measure

The TerraNova is part multiple-choice, part short answer, and covers reading, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

The increases are measured in one, two and three percentage point differences, which taken in the aggregate are significant, Roke said.

"A change in test scores from one year to the next of one to five points for an individual student should not be cause for personal concern or celebration," she said.

SEE TEST, PAGE 7

Pacific's TerraNova scores above national average

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

Students in Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific continued to perform better than the national average on the TerraNova, according to 2004 standardized test results.

Across the board — in reading, language, math, science and social studies — the average DODDS Pacific test-taker in grades three to 11 scored higher than at least 50 percent of students nationwide.

"When you compare us to what school districts in the States might be achieving, our students tend to score very high," said David Doss,

DODDS-Pacific assessment and evaluation coordinator.

TerraNova scores aren't compared between school districts; the test is designed to measure individual achievement — how a student's scores compare to a national norm and whether they fluctuate from year to year.

"If we had a national sample of school districts to compare against, we're probably somewhere in the 80th or 90th percentile for districts," Doss said.

As proof, he points to another assessment — the National Assessment of Educational Progress — given periodically to a sample of students nationwide.

On that test's most recent reading assessment in 2003, none of

the 53 participating states and other jurisdictions scored higher than DODDS students in grade eight.

The 2004 TerraNova results showed some improvement over 2002 and 2003 scores, Doss said.

It's an encouraging sign since measures of general achievement, like TerraNova, normally change slowly over time and can be influenced by numerous disruptive factors at home or in the school, from a deployed parent to an ill teacher.

The upward trend "gives us some hope that we're affecting the scores, which is not an easy thing to do," Doss said.

But DODDS Pacific can't take all the credit for high TerraNova scores, Doss said.

"Most of our students are with us for three years, then they go back to the States," he said. "We think they receive a lot of their education in a lot of different school districts in the country."

"The military is meritocracy," he said. "To stay in the military for many years, you have to be successful in the military. As our students get older, their parents are older and have been more successful" and may indicate a change in socioeconomic status across the years.

"As a profession," Doss said, "we have not been able to remove the impact of socioeconomic status on student achievement."

DODDS Pacific high school

students scored particularly well. For example, juniors in 2004 scored at the 74th percentile in reading — meaning that 50 percent of DODDS Pacific students in this group scored above the 76th percentile, compared with only 24 percent nationwide.

"There's some good things going on in our schools and parents should feel good about the quality of education their kids are receiving," Doss said.

"I think our scores may be as much a testimony to American schools in general and the military families, as they are to what happens when they are in DODDS."

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@pstripes.osd.mil

Important dates in the school year

Following are a few key dates in the DODDS Pacific school year. Parents can get a full list of important dates by contacting their local school.

Thanksgiving Recess: Nov. 25 and 26.

Winter Recess: Dec. 20-31; classes resume Jan. 3 except on Guam, where they resume Jan. 4.

Spring Recess: Guam, March 14-18; elsewhere in Pacific, Jan. 11-15.

Last day of school: June 17.

SAT I and II testing: Oct. 9; Nov. 6; Dec. 4; Jan. 22.

New SAT: March 12; May 7; June 4.

ACT testing: Sept. 25; Oct. 23; Dec. 11; Feb. 19; June 11.

— Staff reports

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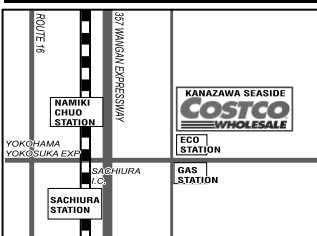
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Coast Guard seeks to fill slots with former sailors

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Sailors getting out of the Navy have a new job opportunity: The U.S. Coast Guard. Congress has given the Coast Guard funding to boost its end-strength by 1,000 recruits next year, and Coast Guard officials ideally want sailors because of the military experience they've acquired on active duty or the reserves, said Capt. Bruce Vickman, commanding officer of the Arlington, Va.-based Coast Guard Recruiting Command.

Any of the 75 jobs, or ratings, that sailors hold would transfer into one of the 17 active-duty or 19 Reserve component ratings within the Coast Guard, he said.

The military service, which falls under the Department of Homeland Security, has not had problems in the past recruiting members, with last year marking "the second best year on record for the Coast Guard going back at least 30 years," Vickman said.

However, this year there is more of a push to lure sailors and others with prior military service. The 40,000-member Coast Guard is offering signing bonuses of up to \$5,000 for some active-duty jobs, and up to \$6,000 to entice reservists to their Reserve component. The bonus amounts vary depending on the rating or

job, and the recruits' experience and time in service, Vickman said. "Coast Guard pay is exactly the same as the other services," he said. "We have the same exact pay and rank structure."

Most allowances and benefits also mirror the other services, such as Basic Allowance for Housing, Tricare benefits, Basic Allowance for Subsistence, Imminent Danger Pay, and tax-free pay in combat zones, to name a few, he said.

Vickman notes that a member cannot be obligated to more than one service at any one time.

"If the servicemember is in the reserves, Selected Reserve or [Individual Ready Reserve], a DD368 'Conditional Release' is required before a member can enlist in the Coast Guard or Coast Guard Reserve."

"If the servicemember is on active duty, a DD214 'Certificate of Release from Active Duty' is required to actually enlist."

Eligible sailors include those taking advantage of the Navy's expanded early-out program, in which an anticipated 400 to 600 sailors will separate up to a year earlier than planned.

The early-out program was changed last month to let sailors separate a year early rather than six months early. It is not available to sailors under a selective re-enlistment bonus or in a rating

that is SRB-eligible, or for SEALs, explosive ordnance disposal sailors, divers, Special Warfare Combatant-Craft crewmen, or those in a nuclear rating.

The Coast Guard is disadvantaged slightly in its recruitment effort because it's not part of the Defense Department. The Navy and Army have partnered in the new "Blue to Green" program, in which the Army aims to bolster its ranks with former sailors and army men.

To help in the effort, the Army shares names of departing sailors with the Army. There's also some agreement or sharing between the Navy and Coast Guard, said Vickman and Navy spokesman Lt. Kyle Raines.

"We don't have the same legal requirement to transfer that information," he said, citing privacy laws.

"The Navy has no formalized program with the Coast Guard, but there have been preliminary and informal discussions... and we're looking at aspects of that information to make sure if anything is done, everything is done legally," Raines said.

Those interested in applying should contact a recruiter. Recruiting office locations by state are listed on www.coastguard.com along with specific requirements. Those interested also can call (877) NOD-USCG.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

Test: Educators: Scores only part of picture

FROM TEST, PAGE 6

"Student scores can fluctuate several points without a real increase or decrease in what the student knows or can do. [But] when

you total scores for over 60,000 students, a change of one or two is very important."

In general, standardized tests can provide a rough measure of how well students are performing

and can be a useful benchmark to compare one system or school to others, said Walt Haney, a professor in the School of Education at Boston College and a senior researcher at the Center for the Study of Testing, Evaluation and Educational Policy, or CSTEPE.

He does not oppose the use of standardized tests, but cautions against using them as the sole barometer to measure student progress. Tests should be used in conjunction with other measures such as homework, projects, class participation and extracurricular activities.

"When you have a test that is being developed and normed and administered nationwide to a group that is not very familiar with it, they tend not to score as well. ... They have to put that statistic into some perspective."

Haney said parents should be active in students' schooling to ensure they're getting a variety of lessons.

"There's widespread concern that schools are increasingly teaching to the tests rather than teaching the broader curriculum," Haney said. Local, state and federal governments link funding to the outcomes of standardized tests, and the results impact teaching and administrator jobs, and a school's status in public opinion, he said.

DODEA does use results of standardized tests to set programs, teaching techniques and curriculum, Roper said.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

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Militia members vacate Najaf shrine

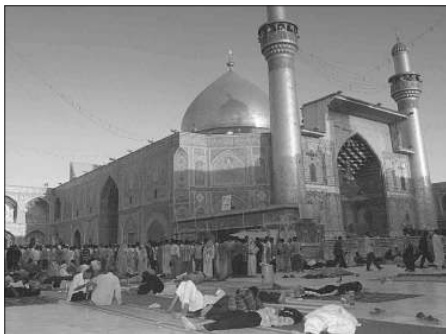
BY ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEIDI
The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — Thousands of pilgrims streamed into the Imam Ali Shrine on Friday and militants left, handing the keys to Shiite religious authorities after Iraq's top Shiite cleric brokered a peace deal to end three weeks of fighting in the city.

Dozens of Iraqi police and national guardsmen deployed around the compound of the walled, golden-domed shrine in the Old City Friday afternoon — but did not enter. Some kissed the compound's gates, others burst into tears. Some residents of the devastated Old City neighborhood waved to them and yelled out, "Welcome. Welcome."

Militants piled Kalashnikov rifles in front of the offices of their leader, radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Thousands of al-Sadr's militiamen were still believed to be armed in the city, though most were staying off the streets. Iraqi forces took control of the Old City and U.S. forces appeared to have maintained their positions. A Marine spokeswoman, Capt. Carrie C. Batson, said the Americans would remain in their positions "until further notice" to "ensure implementation of the terms of the cease-fire," adding that U.S. forces were working at the Iraqi government's request.

Al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia, which has risen up against U.S. forces twice this year, remains intact under the peace deal, and al-Sadr will not be arrested. But the transfer of the Imam Ali Shrine, one of Shia Islam's holiest sites, robs them of a refuge and stronghold that helped them stand up against U.S. forces.



Shiite faithful rest Friday around the Imam Ali Shrine in Najaf. Guns were largely silent in the city Friday for the first time in weeks, after Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani brokered a peace deal between Muqtada al-Sadr's militia, which was using the shrine as a base, and U.S.-Iraq forces.

American forces could not assault the shrine for fear of enraging Iraq's Shiite majority.

After a day of prayers and celebrations at the shrine, civilians and fighters left, and al-Sadr's followers handed over the keys to

the site to religious authorities loyal to Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the esteemed cleric who secured the peace deal.

Al-Sadr ordered his fighters to lay down their arms and leave Najaf and neighboring Kufa after agreeing to the peace deal in a

face-to-face meeting the night before with al-Sistani.

Iraq's interim government also accepted the deal, which calls for all U.S. troops to leave the city. Police briefly exchanged fire with militants in one part of town Friday, and some U.S. troops were still receiving occasional fire.

Al-Sistani's highly publicized, 11th-hour peace mission also boosts his already high prestige in Iraq, showing that only he could force an accord between two sides that loathe each other.

Inside the shrine, the crowds mingled with Mahdi Army fighters and performed noon prayers. Afterwards, civilians and militiamen streamed out, with some militants chanting "Muqtada, Muqtada."

By the afternoon, the shrine appeared empty, clear of the visitors and the militants.

There was no immediate word when the U.S. military would pull out. Iraq State Minister Qasim Dawood said U.S. and coalition forces would pull out of Najaf as soon as interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi ordered it.

Dawood added that the government would not try to arrest al-Sadr.

In Baghdad, guerrillas attacked a U.S. patrol four times with grenades wounding 12 U.S. soldiers, the Army said. Four suspects were detained on suspicion of involvement in the attacks, the Army said.

Also, U.S. warplanes bombed positions in the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, witnesses said. There was no immediate word on casualties or damage.

A U.S. soldier was killed in a vehicle accident and a second seriously injured near Fallujah, the military said.

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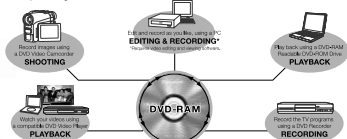
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Russians: Terrorist act downed plane

BY JIM HEINTZ
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — One of two Russian airliners that crashed nearly simultaneously was brought down by a terrorist act, officials said Friday, after finding traces of explosives in the plane's wreckage.

An Islamic militant group claimed responsibility for the attack in a Web statement.

The planes, with 90 people aboard, went down within 20 minutes of each other Tuesday night. In Washington, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said there was "mounting evidence" that both crashes "were acts of terrorism."

Traces of the explosive hexogen were found in the remains of one of the planes, a Tu-154, security service spokesman Nikolai Zakharov said. No results from the investigation of the other crashed plane, a Tu-134, have been announced.

"According to preliminary information, at least one of the air crashes ... has been the result of a terrorist act," a spokesman for the Federal Security Service, Sergei Ignatchenko, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

The Tu-154 was carrying 46 people when it crashed on route to the Black Sea resort of Sochi. The other flight had 44 people

aboard, heading to the southern city of Volgograd, when it went down.

NATO's chief blamed terrorism for both crashes.

"I condemn in the strongest possible terms the apparent act of barbaric terrorism ... resulting in the crash of two Russian passenger aircraft, and the senseless loss of innocent lives," NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, said Friday.

Hexogen, the explosive found in the Tu-154, is the material that Russian officials said was used in the 1999 apartment bombings that killed some 300 people in Russia, an attack blamed on Chechen separatists.

Despite the suspicious timing of the crashes and the fact they took place five days before an election in Chechnya opposed by separatists, Russian officials had kept open the possibility they were caused by bad fuel or human error.

A Web site connected to Islamic militants published a statement on Friday — signed the "Islam-bouli Brigades" — claiming responsibility for the crashes. The statement's authenticity could not immediately be confirmed.

The statement said five "mujahideen" — holy fighters — were aboard each plane. It said the two planes were downed as part of a



Larisa Polyakova holds a picture of her husband Vladimir Friday outside a morgue in Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, Russia, 600 miles south of Moscow. Vladimir died in a plane crash on Tuesday.

series of operations "to extend support and victory to our Muslim brothers in Chechnya and other Muslim areas which suffer from Russian faithlessness."

The Federal Security Service declined to comment on the statement.

Russian officials have contended that the rebels fighting Russian forces in Chechnya for nearly five years receive help from for-

eign terrorist organizations, including al-Qaida.

Friday's claim did not refer to al-Qaida, but a group called "the Islam-bouli Brigades of al-Qaida" claimed responsibility for last month's attempt to assassinate Pakistan's prime minister-designate, Lt. Khalid Islam-bouli was the leader of the group of soldiers who assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Cairo in 1981.

Putin cautious about response due to elections

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin's government muted its response Friday to news of likely terrorist involvement in the crash of two airliners, apparently unwilling to highlight a major security lapse days before elections in rebellious Chechnya.

Moscow asserts it has the region under control — but those claims are undermined by insurgent violence such as the attack on police stations and patrols in the Chechen capital last week that reportedly killed more than 30 people.

Another rebel success would be Sunday's election to replace Kremlin-backed President Akhmad Kadyrov, who was killed in a bomb attack at a sports stadium May 9.

Putin didn't discuss the airline crashes' investigation in a television appearance Friday, and Transport Minister Igor Levitin, who heads the probes, talked only about compensation for victims' relatives.

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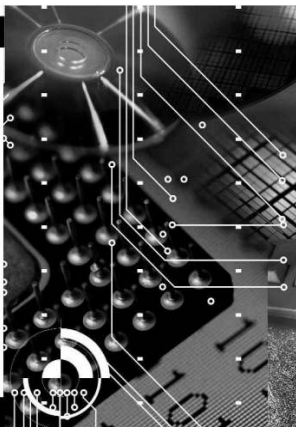


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N. Korean defector allegedly abducted

The Associated Press

SEOUL — A North Korean defector has been abducted by Northern agents while on a honeymoon in China, and her life might be in "grave danger," her family and human rights groups said Friday.

Jin Kyung-sook, 24, fled to South Korea's capital, Seoul, in 1992 to join her husband, Moon Jung-hoon, also a North Korean defector who left in 1999.

Earlier this month, the couple traveled to China's Henan city near the Tumen River for a belated honeymoon after their marriage last September. The river forms China's border with North Korea.

They were trying to send gifts to Jin's cousin in North Korea through an intermediary on the other side of the river when they were assaulted Aug. 8 by four men with knives who spoke with Northern accents, Moon said.

Moon said he jumped into the river to escape the assailants.

When I crawled out of the water, I heard my wife screaming and calling my name from the North Korean side of the border. Then I saw them taking her in a bag," he said.

Moon said his police post was located just across the river.

Activists alerted the South Korean government and Chinese police of the abduction, but decided to publicize the case because little progress has been made, said Do Hee-yoon, head of the Seoul-based Citizen's Coalition for Human Rights of Abductees and North Korean Refugees.

Do said he had received information that Jin has been moved to security headquarters "so we couldn't wait any longer because that means now her life might be in grave danger."

The South Korean Foreign Ministry said it was seeking to confirm the abduction and has asked Chinese police for assistance.

The couple has a 2-year-old son born in South Korea. "Her son is now looking for his mom, please send her back to us," said Jin's mother, Park Shin-ae, bursting into tears.

North Korea has long criticized the South for welcoming defectors, especially after the magazine aimed at recruiting Arab women to fight holy wars against non-Muslims.

The Al-Khanssa magazine, launched about a week ago and expected to appear monthly, also provides fitness tips for female "jihadis," or holy warriors, information on treating injuries and advice on raising children to fight non-believers.



Dr. Ri Hung Sik from North Korea, left, shakes hands with the South Korean ambassador to Kenya, Suk Jo Lee, after North Korean officials signed an agreement Friday in Nairobi to cooperate more with the U.N. Environment Program in the future.

AP

U.N. agency: N. Korea has severe pollution problems

North agrees to cooperate more on environmental issues

By CHRIS TOMLINSON

The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — North Korea has "very severe environmental challenges," including extensively damaged forests, highly polluted rivers and soot-filled air, the head of the U.N. Environment Program said Friday.

In the first-ever report on the state of the environment in North Korea, researchers found that factories and sewage plants were dumping untreated waste and toxins into the country's rivers and coal-fired electricity-generating plants were polluting the air to dangerous levels.

Klaus Toepfer, executive director of the Nairobi-based U.N. Environment Program, said that while the damage was extensive, the North Korean government has committed itself to cooperating with neighboring countries and the United Nations to start improving the situation. "The most important consequence for me ... is that there is a full dedication for co-operation and that there is a full understanding that there must be done more for the environment," Toepfer said.

North Korean officials signed an agreement Friday to cooperate more with the U.N. Environment Program in the future, but the officials left without answering any questions from the media.

Toepfer said they told him they did not want to participate in a press conference that followed the signing.

The evaluation by the U.N. Environment Program was completed late last year with the assistance of the North Korean government.

But its release was delayed until a delegation from the North visited the agency's headquarters to sign the agreement.

Toepfer said the report was incomplete and marked only the beginning of research into North Korea's environmental problems.

More than 100 researchers at 20 institutions operating in North Korea helped compile the report, U.N. officials said.

"It is very difficult after this small first step to come to an overall assessment," Toepfer said. "This country has very severe environmental challenges, very severe."

The country's forests have fallen victim to its fast-growing population — estimated at more than 24 million — and its energy needs, along with natural disasters and efforts to convert forests to farmland, the report said.

Pollution of rivers and streams has become severe, according to the report, which notes a dozen factories discharge some 39,200 cubic yards of waste each day into the Taedong River running through the capital, Pyongyang. Urgent investment is also needed in the country's water treatment and purification systems, the agency said.

Meanwhile, the North's reliance on coal to generate power and heat homes has also created "serious urban air pollution problems," the agency said, but there have been no reliable studies on how that has affected people's health.

The North has depended on outside help to feed its people since 1995. It is still struggling to become self-sufficient in food production with continuing poor crop yields due to natural disasters — as well as the overuse of chemicals and shortages of fertilizer, farm machinery and oil, the agency said.

The U.N. World Food Program said this month the collapse of North Korea's economy has caused food prices to skyrocket so high that some people can't afford what they need to survive. To help remedy the food shortage, the U.N. Environment Program said farmers should expand use of restorative practices, including tree planting and use of organic fertilizers.

Internet magazine incites Muslim women to take up arms

By RAWYA RAGEH

The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — An Islamist women's group has launched an Internet magazine aimed at recruiting Arab women to fight holy wars against non-Muslims.

The Al-Khanssa magazine, launched about a week ago and expected to appear monthly, also provides fitness tips for female "jihadis," or holy warriors, information on treating injuries and advice on raising children to fight non-believers.

The magazine, appearing on several extremist Islamic Web sites, claims to have started "at the initiative" of two slain al-Qaida militants in Saudi Arabia, Abdullah al-Muqrin and Issa Saad Mohammed bin Oushan.

In June, security forces killed al-Muqrin, who was believed to be al-Qaida's chief in the Arab peninsula. Oushan, who was killed last

month, and al-Muqrin were among Saudi Arabia's 26 most-wanted militants.

The magazine said it was produced by the "women's media center" in Saudi Arabia, an Islamic nation where al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden was born and Islam's two holiest shrines are located.

Cairo, Egypt-based Islamist expert Mohamed Salah poured scorn on the 22-page magazine, describing it as a "media stunt [by militants] to show their enemies that they can mobilize anyone, including women, against them."

"What is new here is the use of the medium of the Internet to recruit women," he added.

Al-Khanssa, the periodical's title, was the name of a revered Arab poet who converted to Islam during the time of the 7th century prophet Muhammad.

She later became associated with Muhammad's close acquaintances and was known for

West Nile vaccine target

By KOZO MIZOGUCHI

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese scientists have developed a vaccine for the mosquito-borne West Nile virus and will start testing on humans in the coming months, a researcher said Friday.

The West Nile virus has spread across the United States since first surfacing there in 1999, but Japan has reported no cases so far. Last year, nearly 10,000 people were infected in the United States and 262 died, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Koichi Morita, virology professor at Nagasaki University's Institute of Tropical Medicine, said his team made the vaccine from an inactive form of the virus sent by American researchers two years ago.

Morita said he would begin small-scale clinical trials on humans to determine whether the vaccine is safe, pending approval from the university's ethics board expected later this year. Participants will be monitored for side effects and undergo tests to detect the presence of antibodies — a sign that the body's immune system is responding to fight off the disease.

"The disease could strike in Japan at any time," Morita told The Associated Press. "If the virus ever spreads to Japan, children and the elderly would be the most at risk of infection and death. I want to prevent that from happening."

In the United States, several companies and the government are planning to test potential vaccines over the next three years.

Seventy universities and hospitals throughout the United States and Canada will participate in a study this summer in which antibodies from people who had the disease will be injected into people who are infected.

West Nile virus is normally transmitted to humans by mosquitoes that have fed on infected birds. Most infected people exhibit no signs of illness, or have mild symptoms such as fever, headache and body aches.

Last month, a Japanese woman who returned to Okinawa from a trip to the United States tested positive for the West Nile virus. But doctors later ruled out the possibility with more precise tests.

eulogies written for her brother, a sturdy fighter in pre-Islamic days. Al-Khanssa also encouraged her four sons to take part in jihad to spread Islam. Her sons died in battle.

In the magazine, saying "I believe that Muslims have set our lines next to our men to support them ... raise their children and be prepared. May God elevate us to martyrs."

"We will stand covered in our veils and abayas (black-length cloaks), with our weapons in our hands and our children in our arms," it added. "The blood of our husbands and the limbs of our children are an offering to God."

Women raising children, it says, must understand their "main mission is to present lions to the battlefield."

Saudi journalist Saeed al-Sereini condemned the magazine in an article published in the daily Okaz, saying "the rhetoric takes a very dangerous turn when it addresses women in light of their educational role and capacity to influence children's upbringing."

Japan TV show targets MacArthur's impact

Professor hopes program will help teach younger Japanese how legendary general brought 'tremendous hope for the future'

BY JANIE BRYANT
The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — Two experts of Western and Japanese art and antiquities browse the room, stopping to examine pieces of porcelain and other artifacts. A film crew closes in, and camera lights signal they are shooting. It's time for TV Tokyo's answer to "Antiques Roadshow."

The show called "Kaiten Nandemo Kantekidan" has an audience of 20 million, according to Hiroyuki Hamada, the Old Dominion University professor who helped bring the show here.

On Sept. 28, that audience will see a two-hour special on the treasury of Japanese artifacts given to Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his wife, Jean.

Staff members of the MacArthur Memorial were excited about the chance to learn more about the pieces in the permanent collection.

But Hamada was interested in much more.

The native of Osaka, Japan, is hopeful that the show will help a younger generation understand why the legendary five-star general was so revered by the people living in postwar Japan.

Hamada has done extensive research on that period of history and MacArthur's role in the reconstruction. MacArthur served as supreme commander of the Allied Powers in Japan, and he and his wife lived there until 1951.

Hamada was a child during those years.

"What I recall the most was the



A Japanese film crew for an "Antiques Roadshow"-style show filmed a segment at the MacArthur Memorial Museum, on Tuesday in Norfolk, Va.

tremendous food shortage," he said, "and the country was completely devastated."

MacArthur entered a country

that had suffered defeat and a "loss of direction" not as a conqueror, but as a visionary, Hamada said.

The man whose Army career would span half a century brought Japan democratic ideals, social reforms and a "tremendous hope for the future," Hamada said.

On Tuesday morning, Hamada stood in the courtyard of the memorial waiting for three of the Japanese show's stars.

A program director guided a group of staff members to a spot near a statue of MacArthur in uniform.

The Tidewater Pipe and Drums, dressed in their emerald green MacArthur tartan kilts, played a bagpipe welcome.

The three Japanese TV personalities walked up and stood, two of them nodding their heads to the music. There were applause and greetings.

On cue, retired Col. William J. Davis, director of The MacArthur Memorial, held one of his favorite pieces. The beautiful vase glowed in gilded hues as he explained how the detail of the roof on the temple and the individual members of the court represented Japan for him.

The host and experts conferred in Japanese, laughing their excited conversation with chuckles.

They gave him a slate on which to write his estimate of the vase's

value. He held it up for the camera, showing \$50,000.

He knew it was too high but was lending a little drama to the show. He learned it's worth is closer to \$2,000.

The group turned its attention to a porcelain Noritake plate that showed a purple-toned Mount Fuji. It was typical of plates mass-produced for a Western market.

But this plate was signed by Jean MacArthur the day she visited the factory.

Davis estimated its value at \$10,000. The experts put it at \$4,500 but agreed that half of its value was the 1947 signature.

From there, the estimates that Davis jotted down for a future audience came in lower than the experts' appraisals.

He held an Imari bowl he said was 19th century and wrote \$5,000 on the slate. The Japanese appraisers said it was 100 years older and put its value at \$17,000.

Davis will travel to Japan soon for more filming. And he expects more surprises. That's where the experts will appraise a wood carving of two wrestling puppies. The carving was used by MacArthur by Emperor Hirohito.

"I think valuable meaning will be found from these goods beyond the monetary values," he said.

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HSL-51 Detachment Seven returns

Atsugi welcomes unit after mission in the Middle East

BY JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes

ATSUGI NAVAL AIR FACILITY, Japan — Coming back from five months' deployment to the waters off Iraq, Warlords from Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 51 remember the oppressive heat, dangerous mission and long hours.

But their trip aboard Yokosuka-based USS Cushing was just part of life for a squadron that's deployed about 220 days a year protecting the smaller 7th Fleet ships.

The 23 members and two helicopters from HSL-51 Detachment Seven — one of eight in the squadron — returned Friday from their mission to the Middle East.

In the Gulf, they helped stop smugglers and protected Iraq's two offshore oil terminals after one was damaged in a suicide attack in April. Pilots flew mostly at night, moving away from their normal mission — hunting subs and guarding against surface dangers — to assist with search and seizure and keeping fishing boats and dhows away from the oil terminals.

Some small boats seemed to test their reaction, floating too close and obliging the helicopters to fly over and buzz them away. "Many seemed to be testing the zone," said Lt. Cmdr. Lance Lafond, detachment officer-in-charge.

For sailors in the detachment, the deployment meant the usual hard work. But there were two distinctions on this cruise: one was being part of the historic effort in Iraq; the other, the realization that dangers, including suicide bombers in boats, could be anywhere.

"It's an eerie feeling. You don't know what's going to happen," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Crossland, an aviation structural mechanic. "We stand on our toes out there."

Temperatures in the hangar smoldered in the triple digits — even at midnight. Crewmembers battled desert elements that could devastate any piece of equipment's mechanics and electronics. "There was a lot more corrosion prevention because of the dirt and sand in the air," Crossland said. "It was a lot of cleaning."

During the mission, the crew flew 621 hours and traveled 14,000 miles just getting there and back. On the way home they dodged two typhoons, Lafond said.

"What keeps the guys going is knowing what they're doing, how important it is," he said. The oil terminals they protected provide Iraq's primary source of income.

The detachment arrived back after a long trip away but they're not off the hook. Detachments always are on call, said the Warlords' commander, Cmdr. Eric Patten. "We're always on 48-hour notice," Patten said. "Sometimes they don't give us that much."

The detachments usually are at task on cruisers, frigates and destroyers, although one detachment currently is aboard the USS Kitty Hawk.



PHOTOS BY JOHN E. WOODS/Courtesy to Stars and Stripes

U.S. Navy Lt. Bobby Maslar hugs his wife, Tamara, after returning on Friday from a five-month deployment in the Persian Gulf.

Seven of the squadron detachments fly tactical missions and one transports the 7th Fleet commander, Vice Adm. Jonathan W. Greener.

The Seahawk helicopters the tactical detachments fly give them, and the ship to which they're attached, control of the night with night vision, infrared and other technology.

They hunt subs and guard the water around a ship but the aircraft also can ferry people, help search-and-rescue missions, provide replenishment and convey electronic messages between ships too far apart to communicate.

Each detachment is away 210 to 220 days a year, he said. It's one of the biggest squadrons of its type in the Navy, the largest at Atsugi and the only one with eight detachments ready at all times, Patten said.

And although they're divided into small groups and scattered around the 7th Fleet, they still maintain cohesiveness, Patten said.

"When you come to 51, we're a moving-and-grooving squadron."

That moving brought members of Detachment Seven to a variety of ports on their way to and from the Gulf.

Crossland said it was interesting seeing some of the ports they visited, including Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Bahrain, Dubai, India and Thailand. The stops made him appreciate being home.

After shipboard life for five months, he's even more ready to enjoy home.

"I can take off my shoes and walk around without catching something."

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@postpines.osd.mil



U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Lance Lafond, officer in charge of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 51 Detachment Seven, greets his family on Friday after a mission to the Middle East.

Sasebo at TCCOR 4 for Chaba

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — The base entered into Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness Four on Friday, meaning destructive-force winds of 58 mph or greater are expected within 72 hours.

Forecasters from the Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment in Sasebo said they were highly confident on Friday afternoon that Typhoon Chaba will pass near Kyushu Island on Monday.

"It's still too early to determine exactly when and where the storm will pass; however, a passage east of Kyushu altogether remains unlikely," NPMOD forecasters said.

"Regardless of where the storm tracks, due to its large size, windy conditions will be experienced in the Sasebo area beginning Saturday and possibly lasting into Tuesday."

If the storm tracks to the west, Sasebo could experience winds up to 98 mph gusting to 121 mph with heavy rain showers and thunderstorms beginning Sunday night and lasting into Monday night, the forecast said.

A track east of Sasebo over Central or Eastern Kyushu, the forecast noted, could result in wind gusts between 46 mph to 69 mph with little to no rainfall.

At TCCOR 4, residents should plan for worsening conditions and review their storm preparation check lists, evacuation plans and check emergency supplies. All loose outdoor equipment and materials should be brought inside or secured.

Residents are asked to stay tuned to local American Forces Network television channels and radio stations.

2 face drug charges

TOKYO — Two American men were indicted for smuggling narcotics Wednesday, according to the Yokohama Public District Prosecutors Office.

Babe A. Cole, 25, a civilian worker at Yokosuka Naval Base, and William Jenkins, 27, a former civilian worker at the base, were indicted for violating the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Law, a prosecutor's office spokesman said Friday.

According to the indictment, Cole imported about 11,500 tablets of MDMA from Canada to Narita International Airport around July 10 via air mail and Jenkins imported approximately 20,200 MDMA tablets and about 136.62 grams of stimulants around July 12 from Canada using air mail to Narita.

The two men were arrested Aug. 5. No court date has been set.

From Stripes staff

Bush admits 'miscalculation' on Iraq

President doesn't think Kerry lied about Vietnam

BY PETE YOST
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush, undertaking a heavy campaign schedule in key states in the run-up to the Republican National Convention, acknowledges a "miscalculation" of the difficulties the United States would encounter in the post-Saddam era occupation of Iraq.

In a six-day tour of battleground states starting Friday in Miami, Bush wants to demonstrate his ambition to reach beyond his conservative base and appeal to undecided voters. In doing so, he is advancing the argument that the country will be safer with him in charge because he makes the tough decisions and sticks with them.

Meanwhile, Democratic challenger John Kerry campaigned in California on Friday, accusing Bush of ignoring the middle class and being out of touch with Americans.

"Either the president doesn't have a plan or the president is out of touch with what's happening to real Americans," Kerry told an audience in the San Francisco area. "I think what we need is leadership that knows how hard this struggle is."

In an interview with The New York Times, Bush said for the first time that he made a "miscalculation of what the conditions would be" when U.S. troops went to Iraq and toppled the regime of President Saddam Hussein in May 2003. The insurgen-

**More campaign stories
on Pages 14 and 18**

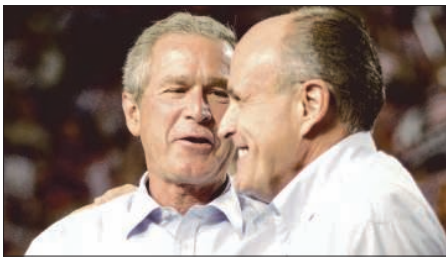
cy, he maintained, was the unintended result of a "swift victory" that led to Iraqi troops disappearing into the cities and mounting a rebellion.

Separately, he told The Times that he did not believe Kerry had had about his service in Vietnam. The group Swift Boat Veterans for Truth has aired advertisements challenging Kerry's account of his service, and claiming Kerry lied about circumstances surrounding his war medals. Kerry has accused Bush of using the group as a front to run a smear campaign.

"I think Senator Kerry should be proud of his record," Bush said. "No, I don't think he lied."

Elaborating on Bush's comments about Iraq, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said there were "things we expected to happen that did not happen" such as a flood of refugees, starvation and widespread destruction of oil fields.

McClellan said the United States had expected Iraq's Republican Guard to stand and fight rather than disappear into the population. "That created a different set of circumstances on the ground that we had to adjust to and deal with, and we are," he said.



President Bush, left, and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani share a laugh Thursday during a rally in Las Cruces, N.M.

The president carries his message about the war in Iraq and the other big issue in the campaign, the economy, to seven states before the convention. Ohio is such an important part of his re-election strategy that he is visiting it twice before reaching New York.

The states Bush is campaigning in look like a recipe for deadlock: Bush and Democrat John Kerry are running close in Florida and West Virginia, and recent polls in Ohio, New Hampshire, Michigan and Iowa show

the two candidates tied.

Bush is driving home his arguments by resorting to star power, letting Republican luminaries such as former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Arizona Sen. John McCain do some of his talking for him.

On terrorism, "We can't change our mind this day and the next day and the day after," Giuliani, the man inextricably linked to New York's recovery from the Sept. 11 attacks, said Thursday.

Republicans seek to limit platform dissent at convention

BY CALVIN WOODWARD
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a few words meant to speak volumes, U.S. Republicans have extended a welcome to party members who disagree with elements of their platform, a strongly conservative statement of beliefs that includes an endorsement of constitutional bans on abortion and gay marriage.

Party leaders working with platform delegates on both sides of the abortion issue settled on a declaration Wednesday night that Republicans "respect and accept" that party members can have deeply held differences.

This was a step up from merely recognizing the existence of dissenters, as the initial version of the 2004 platform stated. But in a process where every word is watched with a hawk's eye by party activists, Republicans hoped the change would settle divisions between social conservatives and moderates and deliver President Bush a unified national convention this week.

"We've worked very hard to be the open-door [party] and show respect for other views," said Tennessee's Bill Frist, Senate majority leader and platform chairman. "It's language I'm very comfortable with."

The committee adopted the compromise in a 74-18 vote, with most of the mild opposition coming from social conservatives who saw any accommodation as a dilution of core principles. On the other hand, advocates of gay and abortion rights had wanted a much stronger statement — one that identified their issues as matters of disagreement.

Ann Stone, who leads Republicans for Choice, said the "respect and accept" solution was insufficient, but it was preferable to simply being recognized. "Three words are better than one," she said wryly.

Earlier, a panel made up largely of conservative delegates approved language that calls for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and opposes legal recognition of any sort for gay civil unions, including benefits for such couples. The platform committee made no changes in that plank.

The platform goes to the Republican National Convention on Monday, where the committee will reassemble to pass it and the convention will ratify it.

Some activists sharply criticized their party for adopting a hard line in advance of a conven-

tion that will seek support from swing voters and more liberal Republicans.

"You can't craft a vicious, mean-spirited platform and then try to put lipstick on the pig by putting Rudy Giuliani and Arnold Schwarzenegger on in prime time," Christopher Barron of the Log Cabin Republicans, gay-rights group, said in an interview.

Overall, Republican convention delegates overwhelmingly approved of gay marriage, according to an Associated Press survey of about three-fourths of the 2,500-plus delegates. About 72 percent said they opposed same-sex nuptials.

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RNC in N.Y. also stage for Clinton to stand out

BY DEVLIN BARRETT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democrat the opposition loves to hate, will be giving Republicans reasons to rant when the GOP descends upon her adopted home state of New York.

The first lady-turned-senator is one of her party's strongest voices on a dominant issue in the campaign — President Bush's handling of the war against terrorism after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Often talked about as a possible presidential candidate in 2008, Clinton and other Democrats will use all opportunities during the Republican National Convention to portray the incumbent as a leader who has fallen short on homeland security and domestic programs.

Since the terrorist strike and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the freshman senator has been a harsh critic of what she says are major shortfalls in homeland security funding for local police and fire rescue personnel, arguing that the Bush administration has left cities and towns strapped for necessary equipment and training.

She has chastised the administration for what she maintains is poor planning and execution of the Iraq war, and has said the government needs to do more to

care for its military veterans.

At the Democratic convention in Boston last month, Clinton recalled feeling "like I was standing at the gates of hell" during a visit to the site of the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, before offering a list of attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, before offering a list of attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

"Do you know what we need to meet those challenges?" she asked. "We need John Kerry."

It was a speech that almost didn't happen. Under pressure from Democrats, particularly women, the Kerry campaign reluctantly and gave Clinton a larger speaking role than simply introducing her husband.

Philippe Reines, a spokesman for Clinton, said her plans for GOP convention week had not been finalized, but there's little doubt her voice will be heard.

"The Bush administration wants to use New York as a stage, and it's a responsibility of all of us, including the New York delegation, to show the truth behind the facade that the Republicans want to present," said Jay Carson, a spokesman for the Democratic National Committee.



Clinton

New Yorkers urged to 'make nice' with Republican guests

BY LARRY MCSHANE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York, it's the Democrats' town.

Just as the Bronx is still up and the Battery's down — so goes an old musical number — the major political parties haven't changed their positions. The Democrats here are soaring while the Republicans are dwindling.

About 10,000 GOP voters have disappeared from the city since 1996. Democrats, who outnumber Republicans 5 to 1, added about 200,000 people over the same stretch to reach 2.8 million voters.

The minority party holds just three of 51 City Council seats. The GOP malaise extends beyond the city's borders; in the last 32 years, the only GOP presidential candidate to carry the state was Ronald Reagan in 1980 and 1984.

Sure, the city's mayor is a Republican — but not really. He was a Democrat and joined the GOP just three years ago when faced with a contentious Democratic primary.

This summer at Madison Square Garden, the Republicans will take Manhattan, albeit for just four days. It's the first national Republican convention in New York. The Democrats have held five, the last in 1992 when Bill Clinton went on to win the White House.

The Clinton convention contended with Democrat David Dinkins in charge, although that didn't last long. The one-term mayor was defeated the next year by Rudolph Giuliani, and the GOP has improbably controlled the mayoralty ever since.

That doesn't mean the GOP delegates and their wallets won't be welcome. The city hopes the convention will generate \$265 million for the local economy.

The tens of thousands of visitors — mostly Republican politicians and media hordes — will find a city that has changed dramatically over the past decade. Republicans will visit a New York enjoying a burnished national image, with its crime rate plunging and its popularity climbing as high as its skyline.

The city's once-staggering homicide rate has dropped dramatically — from 1,900 a dozen years ago to just under 600 last year.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks killed 2,749 people, and the GOP decision to schedule the convention so near the third anniversary has left a bad taste with some New Yorkers.

Such sentiment aside, the conventioners will contribute to a continuing surge in the city's popularity. A record 36.6 million visitors are expected this year before 2005 arrives in Times Square.

Something else they can expect: Security will be high for the Aug. 30-Sept. 2 convention. The city's 36,500-officer police department — the nation's largest — will be on full alert.

"You don't have to be a Demo-

New York City by the numbers

- Population: 8,008,278
- Registered Democrats: 2.8 million
- Registered Republicans: 524,000
- City Council members: 51
- Republican City Council members: 3
- Police officers: 36,500
- Visitors in 2003: 35.9 million
- Amount of waterfront space: 578 miles
- Amount of floor space in Macy's: 2.1 million square feet
- Manhattan in square miles: 22.7
- Number of bird species in Central Park: 215
- Average August temperatures: low 67, high 84
- Price of a subway or bus ride: \$2
- Price of Staten Island ferry: free

— The Associated Press

crat to love New York," says former Mayor Ed Koch, a lifelong New York Democrat appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg to help round up the volunteers.

Koch, in a television ad, urges New Yorkers to "make nice" and welcome their GOP guests. "They've never ordered pizza by the slice," he observes. "They don't know from alternate-side-of-the-street parking."



Workers put up a banner reading "Welcome" at New York's Madison Square Garden on Thursday as the arena prepares to host the Republican National Convention, which begins Monday.

Convention converging upon the legend-making 'Garden'

BY LARRY MCSHANE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's known simply as "The Garden," a perfect appellation for a place where legends grow.

To millions, those two words mean just one thing: Madison Square Garden, billed in typical New York hype as "the world's most famous arena."

Another two words are often all that's necessary to summon its magic: Ali-Frazier. Bruce Springsteen. Stanley Cup. Willis Reed. The Stones.

On so many nights, across 125 years, the Garden has been the place to be, bigger than the Empire State Building and greater than the Great White Way. Its capacity is 19,763, but thousands more claim they were inside on those unforgettable evenings.

"It doesn't matter if it's Michael Jordan, or Muhammad Ali, or Sinatra or the pope," said George Kalinsky, the Garden's official pho-

tographer for 38 years. "They know the stage is brighter here than anywhere else."

Jordan knew better than most. Some of his greatest games, including his 55-point "double nickel" torching of the New York Knicks in 1995, came at the Garden.

The bright lights can burn, too. Sinead O'Connor was booed off the stage in 1992, shortly after she shredded a picture of Pope John Paul II on "Saturday Night Live." (The pope appeared at the Garden in 1979.) The Garden is now in its fourth incarnation and its third location, site of the Republican National Convention beginning Aug. 30. But nothing can alter its history.

It's where Reed, dragging a wounded leg, killed the Knicks at the NBA title in 1970.

Where Joe Frazier knocked out Muhammad Ali, while Frank Sinatra snapped pictures at ringside in 1971.

Where John Lennon paid off a

bet to Elton John by joining him onstage in 1974 for a duet on "I Saw Her Standing There" — the late Beatle's last live performance.

Where Mark Messier broke a 54-year-old "curse," delivering on his guarantee that the New York Rangers would win the Stanley Cup in 1994.

"The Garden is more than a building," Kalinsky said. "The history is so rich, and people want to be a part of that history."

When George Harrison hosted a benefit for the starving people of Bangladesh in August 1971, he brought Eric Clapton, Ringo Starr and Bob Dylan to the Garden.

Thirty years later, after Sept. 11, 2001, the same stage hosted a benefit for victims of the World Trade Center terrorist attack and featured Keith Richards, Mick Jagger, The Who and Billy Joel.

Whether sitting in a locker room or waiting in the wings, athletes and artists view the Garden as the pinnacle: the best venue in the biggest city before the brightest audiences.

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Patti Quigley, foreground, and Susan Retik, who both lost their husbands during the Sept. 11 terror attacks, ride in Needham, Mass.

Two widows of 9/11 attacks try to break the cycle of violence

BY DENISE LAVOIE
The Associated Press

NEEDHAM, Mass. — Amid the horror, confusion and grief that followed their husbands' deaths in the 2001 terrorist attacks, Susan Retik and Patti Quigley were inundated with kindness.

Family and friends offered love and companionship. Their husbands' employers continued to pay their salaries. Strangers sent flowers, food and cash.

Yet through their grief, the two widows managed to react with kindness, reaching out across an ocean and to a different culture to consider the plight of widows in Afghanistan.

Retik and Quigley were struck by how women, especially widows, were marginalized by the former Taliban regime and by Afghan society in general. They had no life insurance and often no money or property to help them carry on after their husbands' deaths.

"I thought — look at all the support we're getting," said Retik, of Needham. "What must it be like for widows in Afghanistan?"

It turned out that Quigley, who lived in neighboring Wellesley but had never met Retik until several months after their husbands were killed at the World Trade Center, had similar thoughts. The two began talking about the connection they felt with widows in Afghanistan, the same nation where their husbands' killers had trained and where war raged in the years after the attacks. Months later, they came up with a plan to raise money for them.

Earlier this year, they created Beyond the 11th, a nonprofit foundation to aid widows in areas touched by conflict, and they plan to mark the third anniversary of the attacks by riding their bikes from New York, where their husbands' lives ended, to Boston, where their final flights began.

"Instead of the cycle of violence and terrorism escalating, if

we can on that day show kindness and reach out to other people, what better thing to do on September 11th?" asked Retik.

The two women plan to ride the first 220 miles of the route together, making their way through back roads of New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and into Massachusetts, where they hope to be met by another 200 riders for the final 30 miles to Boston.

Each rider will represent one of the 202 New Englanders killed in the attacks.

For Retik, 36, and Quigley, 40, the ride is an outgrowth of their friendship, which blossomed even as they coped with a terrible loss. Both women were pregnant when their husbands perished aboard the planes that slammed into the trade center.

Retik and her husband, David, already had two children, Ben, 3, and Molly, 2. She was 7½ months pregnant on Sept. 11. Two months later, she gave birth to a second daughter, Dina.

Quigley and her husband, Patrick, had a 5-year-old daughter, Rachel. A month after the attacks, she gave birth to another daughter, Leah.

The first few months after the attacks were a blur.

By February of 2002, Retik and Quigley began getting together for dinner, sharing their grief and talking to each other in a way no one else could. "There's a point where other people just don't get it," Quigley said.

Quigley came up with the idea for the bike ride. They bought bikes together in March and began their training with a 14-mile ride. Since then, they've built up to 50 miles and plan to ride about 100 miles per day by September.

The ride will begin Sept. 9 at the former site of the World Trade Center and end on Sept. 11 at a new memorial in the Boston Public Garden. They are hoping to raise \$100,000 for food, clothing, education and job training for Afghan widows and their children.

Bush signs order for intel reforms

Congress, intelligence community are divided over strong changes

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER
SHRADER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amid a heated election-year debate on intelligence reform, President Bush signed executive orders Friday strengthening the powers of the CIA director and establishing a new national counterterrorism center.

The moves will "improve our ability to find, track and stop terrorists," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

One executive order gives the CIA director additional authority on an interim basis to perform many of the functions of a proposed national intelligence director who would oversee all 15 of the nation's intelligence agencies. Bush also will work with Congress to create the position of national intelligence director, McClellan said.

Congress and members of the intelligence community are divided over creation of the new position, which would upset the current bureaucracy and balance of power among the spy agencies.

McClellan said the White House would work with Congress to make sure that the proposed national intelligence director has enough authority over spending and hiring and firing "so they can do the job and do it effectively." The independent commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks had proposed giving the

new director strong powers in both areas.

Another executive order establishes the National Counter-Terrorism Center, while a third order sets guidelines for the sharing of intelligence among agencies. McClellan said the order would establish "some common standards and clear accountability measures."

“[The moves will] improve our ability to find, track and stop terrorists.”

Scott McClellan

White House press secretary

"The president is committed to doing everything in his power to make sure that we are protecting the American people," his chief spokesman

said.

A congressional official said the White House has asked for the quick feedback with the hopes of making an announcement before the start of the Republican National Convention on Monday, perhaps before the end of this week.

Debate over how to reshape the intelligence community picked up steam following the release of the Sept. 11 commission's 567-page report, which detailed events surrounding the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and made more than 40 recommendations to reform the government.

Relevant congressional committees have been working through the August recess to draft legislation to implement intelligence reforms. Even with the president's actions, Congress is expected to continue its work on legislation to overhaul U.S. intelligence.

AP White House correspondent Terence Hunt contributed to this report.

Texas police believe boys' deaths a murder-suicide

The Associated Press

CIBOLO, Texas — A 15-year-old boy and his 12-year-old brother were shot to death in their suburban San Antonio home, and authorities say they believe the killings were a murder-suicide.

Charles Neddso shot his younger brother, David, before school Thursday morning, then turned the .357 Magnum on himself, Schertz Police Chief Steve Starr said.

Charles died at their home and David was flown to a hospital in San Antonio, where he was pronounced dead.

Investigators initially said it appeared that Charles shot David accidentally and then perhaps shot himself out of guilt. But by late Thursday the investigation pointed to murder-suicide, Starr said. He declined to elaborate.

Police said the gun apparently belonged to the family. The boys' mother was at home but getting ready for work at the time of the shootings, authorities said.

The boys' father, Air Force Lt. Col. Guy Neddso, is a pilot instructor at Randolph Air Force Base. Neighbors said the family returned to the area about a year ago after being stationed in South Korea.

FBI bulletin says VA hospitals could be target for terrorists

BY CURT ANDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Al-Qaida may attempt to attack Veterans Affairs hospitals as an alternative to more heavily guarded U.S. military installations, the FBI and Homeland Security Department warn in a new nationwide terrorism bulletin.

Although U.S. authorities say there is no credible intelligence regarding a specific threat against such hospitals, the bulletin said there have been persistent reports of "suspicious activity" at medical facilities throughout the United States.

That includes "possible reconnaissance activities" this year at

unspecified military medical facilities in Bethesda, Maryland, and Aurora, Colorado, the bulletin said. Even though later investigation of these two incidents uncovered no links to terrorism, the bulletin urges vigilance at VA hospitals on the part of police and security personnel.

"These facilities may be considered attractive targets due to their association with the military and a perception that such an attack may be more successful than an attack against traditional military targets, which generally maintain a more robust security posture," the bulletin says.

Bethesda, located just outside Washington, is home of the Na-

tional Naval Medical Center, which is across the street from the sprawling National Institutes of Health.


Aurora, located just east of Denver, is home to the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, now being redeveloped into a civilian medical school.

The Department of Veterans Affairs operates 163 hospitals in the United States, with at least one in each of the 48 contiguous states as well as in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

There are also hundreds of VA clinics and nursing homes.

The bulletin was circulated among law enforcement and security personnel nationwide Thursday.

The Associated Press obtained a copy Friday.



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Marines unlikely to press charges in car fire

By Ken Thomas

The Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — They are highly trained, field-tested Marines, and like many in their number, they have an unenviable task: to tell families that a loved one has been killed.

But nothing could have prepared 1st Sgt. Timothy Shipman and the two Marines in his team for Carlos Arredondo's reaction. In his grief upon being told his Marine son was dead, Arredondo set their government vehicle ablaze and seriously burned himself.

"Just like training for combat, you train for 98 percent of the things that you might face," said Maj. Scott Mack, a unit leader at the Hialeah-based scout and antitank platoon of the 8th Tank Battalion. For everything else, he said, "you rely on instinct."

The Marines would not press charges "out of compassion and sensitivity" to Arredondo, Mack said.

Capt. Tony Rode, a Hollywood police spokesman, said it was premature to discuss possible charges against Arredondo, but said it was unlikely. "If you have any ounce of sympathy or compassion, you'd choose not to charge an individual who receives such horrific news about his son," he said.

The Marines arrived at Arredondo's door Wednesday afternoon to tell him that his 20-year-old son, Lance Clint Alexander Arredondo of Randolph, Mass., had been killed in combat in Iraq.

As they tried to console him, the father walked into the garage, picked up a propane tank, a can of gasoline and a propane

torch. He smashed the van's window, got inside and set it ablaze, despite pleas from the Marines to stop.

The Marines, reservists who are members of a military Casualty Assistance Calls team, pulled Arredondo, 44, from the burning vehicle and extinguished the flames on him. None of the Marines suffered injuries. Wednesday was Arredondo's 44th birthday.

Military officials could not recall a similar incident from bereaved relatives.

"They range in emotion from stunned silence to crying and weeping," said Gunnery Sgt. Kristine Scarber, a Marines spokeswoman. "As far as we know, this is the first time anyone has been violent."

Alexander Arredondo, who turned 20 this month, grew up in Norwood, Mass.,

and moved to Randolph in 1999, according to his mother, Victoria Foley, who told the Patriot Ledger of Quincy that her son "knew at age 16 that he wanted to go into the Marines."

He joined shortly after he graduated from Blue Hills Regional Technical School in 2002.

Foley, of Bangor, Maine, was divorced from Carlos Arredondo in the late 1980s. She said she spoke to her son the day he died, the Ledger reported.

Mack said Carlos Arredondo, an immigrant from Costa Rica, had been upgraded to stable condition with burns over 26 percent of his body at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

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New York City police officers remove AIDS protesters Thursday after the activists hung a banner in support of their cause outside Madison Square Garden, the site of this week's Republican National Convention.

AIDS activists protest nude

BY VERENA DOBKIN
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — AIDS activists stripped naked Thursday opposite the site of this week's Republican National Convention, demanding that President Bush make good on his promise to help HIV-positive people in the world's poorest countries.

Two clothed members of ACT UP climbed atop a media van parked on West 3rd Street, across from Madison Square Garden, and held a sign reading "W. Drop the Debt. Stop AIDS." Then nine others, standing in the street, removed all of their clothes; a 10th protested in her underwear.

"This is New York," Mayor Michael Bloomberg joked later. "Of course we have ... naked people on Eighth Avenue."

Police said they arrested 14 people. They were variously charged with public lewdness, disorderly conduct and reckless endangerment, and were being held for their cases to be processed.

The men and women stood in the buff for about 10 minutes, locking arms and blocking West 33rd Street as they chanted, "Drop the Debt. Stop AIDS." The same slogan was stenciled in black on their bodies.

Dozens of other ACT UP members passed out leaflets to the crowd that gathered. "When it comes to fighting the AIDS crisis, Emperor Bush has no clothes," said activist Amanda Lugg.

"Countries are spending all the money they have on paying off debt when they could be spending that money on prevention of HIV," said protest organizer Eustacia Smith, 36, a Brooklyn social worker.

At the convention, "Bush will speak about compassionate conservatism," said Minor Arjomand, a Columbia University student who passed out fliers. "In his State of the Union address, the president pledged to fight the AIDS epidemic, especially in underdeveloped countries. But those countries were hand-picked."

Arjomand said Bush had asked creditors such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to pardon Iraq's debts, but not the debts of sub-Saharan countries where millions of people are dying of AIDS and money is needed for treatment and prevention.

Last year, the Bush administration unveiled a \$15 billion, five-year plan to fight AIDS in 15 nations in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America. Congress appropriated \$2.4 billion in this fiscal year for the program, and is seeking \$2.8 billion for next year.

The administration has said it will increase spending in upcoming years to reach the \$15 billion mark.

In a separate protest earlier Thursday, police arrested four people on charges including reckless endangerment and criminal trespass for allegedly unfurling an anti-Bush banner out of the Plaza Hotel on Fifth Avenue. The sign had the word "truth" on an arrow pointing north toward Central Park — where anti-war protesters went to rally — and another arrow with "Bush" pointing south toward Madison Square Garden.

Bushmen seek U.S. support, funding

BY RYAN PEARSON
The Associated Press

CULVER CITY, Calif. — A movie about a Coke bottle that sows discord among an isolated tribe introduced the rest of the world to Africa's Bushmen.

More than two decades after "The Gods Must Be Crazy," a small group of Bushmen are hoping Hollywood star power — and a well-publicized monthlong journey across the United States — can help them gain the upper hand in a real-life dispute with the government of Botswana.

Yearning to return to the ancestral homeland they say they were pushed out of in preparation for government-sponsored diamond mining, the Bushmen are on a quest for allies and money.

"I'm angry," Roy Sesana said in the Los Angeles area Thursday. "I'm crying and my tears are coming out. So maybe some Americans' support here can wipe up my tears."

Minnie Driver and other movie actors as well as musicians including Jackson Browne were expected at a Beverly Hills fund-raiser Friday night. A "diamond drop" was to accept jewelry from the celebrities as a donation to a legal fund protecting Bushmen lands.

The following road trip takes the four Bushmen from Los Angeles to New Mexico to Washington, D.C.

They've scheduled meetings with American Indian tribal leaders, fox hunters and federal lawmakers, ending the trip Sept. 27 at the United Nations in New York.

The contingent is being trailed along the way by a National Geographic photographer and public radio producers, said organizer Rupert Isaacson, a journalist who wrote a book about the Kalahari Bushmen.

The Bushmen, also known as the San people, live in a hunter-gatherer society dating back thousands of



Kim Langbecker greets Roy Sesana, center, and Jumanza Gakebone, left, as the two Bushmen from Botswana begin a monthlong fund-raising journey taking them from Hollywood to Capitol Hill and the United Nations headquarters. The Bushmen, whose hunter-gatherer society dates back thousands of years, are now locked in a legal battle over Botswana's Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

years. They have been forced by the government to get hunting permits and denied water rights on their ancestral lands in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

"For us, to stay in our land is to keep our culture," said Jumanza Gakebone, 30.

"We want to go back to the land, because it's our land, our cultural land, our ancestral land," said Sesana.

Bushman culture dictates that sick people must go to the graves of their ancestors to dig up healing roots, and must get hunting guidance from their ancestors, said Sesana.

He counts off on his fingers, saying four older people who were ill died after being forced off the reserve and away from their traditional medicine.

Hearings on the Bushmen claim to the reserve, which is about the size of Switzerland, began last month before Botswana's high court but were post-

poned after the Bushmen ran out of money for attorneys.

About \$100,000 was raised for the U.S. trip and organizers are hoping to save some of that money and pick up new donations along the way, Isaacson said. Court hearings are set to resume in November.

Botswana's government says on its Web site that while many Bushmen wanted to settle down and become farmers, agricultural use of the land is not compatible with preserving wildlife on the reserve.

Set up by British colonial authorities in 1961, the reserve continued to be used by Bushmen after Botswana gained independence in 1966.

But in 2002, the Bushmen say about 1,800 of them were forcibly evicted from the reserve and those who resisted were beaten and tortured. Most now live in makeshift camps outside the reserve, though about 100 refused to leave and continue to live off the land.

Battle lines drawn in Confederate flag tiff

BY MARK SCOLFORO
The Associated Press

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — The Confederate flag as interpreted by artist John Sims is pink and purple, hung by a noose or colored in the red, black and green of black nationalism. But it is Sims' plan to hold a mock lynching of a Confederate flag when his exhibition opens at a college art gallery early next month that has triggered a campaign to cancel the show.

Sims describes his work as an examination of the power of symbols. In his case, passion about the flag has generated dozens of e-mail and phone complaints to Gettysburg College, the local government and the artist himself.

Web sites devoted to the flag are buzzing with outrage, and the local chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans obtained permission for a protest vigil on national-park property that borders the campus.

The fervor is in full force, but "Recoloration Proclamation: The Gettysburg Redress" is not until Sept. 3. Besides the flags, the show will also include jazz-style alternative recordings of "Dixie," Sims' rewriting of the Gettysburg Address with a speech on nationalism and dissent in contemporary art by Harvard University professor Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw.

"The point of the exhibit is the flag has taken on a set of meanings, that the artist is concerned with the contemporary state of the Confederate flag as a symbol," said gallery director Molly S. Hutton. "The nature of exhibition is it's controversial — we expected some controversy."

The backlash over Sims' work already has led to a security-planning meeting Monday between the college president and borough officials. "We haven't had any open



Diane Beavin, an employee at a Gettysburg, Pa., gift shop, stands next to a display of Confederate flag memorabilia Tuesday. An art exhibit that depicts the Confederate battle flag in pink and recalls the time "Dixie" in hip-hop and jazz styles is coming to Gettysburg College next month, but opponents have already drawn battle lines over the exhibit.

threats of any kind, but we feel that we have to be prepared," Mayor William E. Troxell said.

Jim Palmisano, commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans group in Gettysburg, said he wishes the school would cancel the exhibition. "I can't think of a more offensive thing that he could do," Palmisano said of the mock lynching. He estimated that 80 to 100 people will attend the vigil to voice their displeasure.

Sims, a black man who once displayed one of his colored Confederate flags at a Ku Klux Klan rally in Florida, called Gettysburg "the perfect place" to launch a project he describes as "a battle of symbols."

As the scene of a storied 1863 battle that swung the tide of the Civil War, battle memorabilia is everywhere in Gettysburg, a central Pennsylvania town about 10 miles north of the Maryland border.

Grass, dirt fly at lawn mower races in Va.

Some drivers prove they're a cut above rest

BY GARREN SHIPLEY

The Northern Virginia Daily

BERRYVILLE, Va. — They didn't get much mowing done, but the crowd didn't seem to mind.

Drivers of the ABNORMAL racing series recently took to the grass for the second year in a row in races that made their lawn mowers look more like lawn killers.

ABNORMAL — the Appalachian Blue Ridge and Northern Virginia Outlaw Racing Mower League — is a collection of local racing enthusiasts who use converted lawn tractors to fulfill their need for speed.

With no governors to limit engine RPMs, smaller rear wheels, chopped suspensions and the occasional modified drive system, dozens of tractors plowed around the show ring at the Clarke County Fair in a cacophony of revving engines, backfiring exhaust and cheering fans.

Each machine threw rooster tails of sod and dirt into the air



Tom Bartys Sr. of Culpepper, Va., tips up but manages to stay on the track and win the valve and block class of the lawn mower races at the Clarke County Fairground.

with each lap, leaving a cloud of dust where the track was dry and a spray of grass where it wasn't.

A number of machines at the event looked like they were just a couple of blades away from going back to full-time lawn maintenance.

But for others, part of the fun is

having people look at your pride and joy.

"General" Jeff Lam from Winchester has a lot to be proud of.

Lam's hand-built tractor is a detailed replica — as much as a lawn mower can be — of the Duke boys' pride and joy, The General Lee.

"It took me six months to build it," said Lam, getting ready for the start of the Overhead Valve Class race. "I started out with \$3,500 in it ... and I fabricated everything else."

But the circuit hasn't been on big car, er, lawn mower show. Lam has flipped his mower in

competition twice this year — going end over end more than once.

Competitors wear helmets and neck braces. But at the end of the day, they're still sitting exposed on a lawn mower.

Track conditions were marginal on Aug. 20, rain earlier in the week had left the ground spongy in places.

A number of drivers found the soft patches too late and lost control of their machines, winding up either in the small infield or outside the hay bales on the edge of the track.

But it was Clearbrook's John Harden, driver of the No. 33, who took the most impressive tumble of the evening.

After spending the first few laps of the race near the front, Harden spun out.

With some hard driving, he was moving toward the front again when he had another wheel problem — the right front broke off.

The frame dug into the soft ground, sending him tumbling over the wheel and bringing out the longest caution of the day. Harden walked away, but his mower wasn't so lucky. It took three guys to cart the machine off the track after the race.

In hindsight, there was only one way to prevent the accident, he said, but it's something no driver was willing to do.

"Slow down," he said.

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RELIGION



Rick Lamborn, center, director of Single Focus Atlanta, speaks with Hooters servers Heather Madison, left, and Erika Goepfert during a Bible study session in Kennesaw, Ga. Lamborn's group has been meeting at the ribald restaurant once a week for the past four years.

Christian group meets at unusual location: Hooters

BY LOUISE CHU

The Associated Press

KENNESAW, Ga. — Voices hush around the patio table as Rick Lamborn poses his first discussion question during a Christian youth group meeting at a popular restaurant.

The topic this night is consistent relationships, and Lamborn begins by asking the college-age group, "How does inconsistency negatively affect your relationships with others?"

As responses sprinkle in, a blonde in a tight white tank top and orange hot pants quietly scoots up to the table. She joins the discussion for a few minutes, then has to scurry back to her boisterous customers inside.

Interactions like these, that bring faith to the uninitiated, are one of the reasons why Single Focus Atlanta has chosen to meet at a Hooters restaurant every week for the past four years.

"We've seen a few of the waitresses become Christians. One of the former managers here became a Christian. So it's worked. The whole object, in reality, is that this is just to get inside the door," said Lamborn, whose non-denominational group invites all those who are curious to join their Hooters sessions.

Some Bible study members initially resisted holding meetings at the restaurant known for its scantily clad waitresses.

"Somebody comes up to me and says, come to a Bible study at Hooters. And my first reaction was ... I can see McDonald's or another restaurant, but why Hooters?" said 21-year-old Charles Bailor III.

But Bailor, who joined Single



Not a typical sight at Hooters: A Bible sits on a table at a Bible study group at the restaurant.

Focus two years ago, said he quickly began to appreciate the casual, nonjudgmental atmosphere at the meetings.

Single Focus, which has about 90 members, also holds a more traditional Bible study at a house each week, as well as mission

trips and ski retreats, but Lamborn said the Hooters gatherings provide an option for people who wouldn't necessarily accept an invitation to a church.

Lamborn left his job as a computer software technician two years ago to take over full-time executive director of the group after its founder, Nelson Foster, who was a youth minister at several local churches, died in a car accident. Lamborn attends a Methodist church but is not a minister.

Still, some say Single Focus' presence at a Hooters sends a mixed message, since the overt sexuality of the restaurant doesn't fit with Christian ethics.

Mike McNeill, spokesman for Atlanta-based Hooters of America, said the company's restaurants aren't usually host to Christian meetings, but "it's not our job to be judgmental of any group that comes in there. Our job is to wait on them and provide food, fun and great service."

Despite Hooters' recent attempts to reposition itself as a more family friendly, it has been a frequent subject of protests. Social conservatives say the restaurant corrupts young children and attracts sexual predators, and feminists say it objectifies women.

Some criticism has also come from conservative Christians.

Terry Erickson, director of evangelism for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a national campus ministry organization, questioned whether a Hooters Bible study could be effective.

The whole idea is wanting to go where people are at, but the question is, can the place where you're meeting, can it enhance what you're trying to accomplish or does it detract from it?" said "I think someone who comes to Hooters is looking for something else."

Church goes to the dogs to serve neighborhood

BY ALBERTA LINDSEY

Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND, Va. — Forest Hill Presbyterian Church hasn't gone to the dogs, but dogs are going to the church.

The canines don't go inside to pray and sing. They stay outside to run and play with their owners or rub noses with other dogs.

The church at 44th Street and Forest Hill Avenue in South Richmond recently opened Fido's (pronounced Fido) Field, a fenced-in, off-leash dog park.

Part of a pet-ministries initiative, the idea grew out of a church-wide mission and ministries task force that also worked to enhance the music ministry, start a Sunday morning speaker series and enhance local and regional missions.

An oversight board of church and neighborhood people is to monitor the park and set regulations.

"The church was thinking hard about ways we could become more engaged with the neighbor-

hood," said the Rev. Stephen Price-Gibson. "So many people in the neighborhood have pets, and they are very important to them."

Roger Clark, a church member and neighborhood resident, saw a need for the park because the city doesn't allow dogs in Forest Hill Park. The closest dog park to the neighborhood is across the Boulevard Bridge.

He used a parable from the Bible to sell his idea. "What happened to the servant who buried his talent and didn't use it?" he asked. "The message of that parable to the church is that Forest Hill has a major asset: A large front yard that's not used except to grow weeds."

The dog park is open daily from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. except during worship from 9 a.m. to noon on Sundays.

Park admission is free. But there are playground rules for canines and their people. The animal must have current rabies vaccinations and city license tags and be accompanied by an owner. People must clean up after their pets. No alcohol is allowed.

Man translates Quran to modern-day English

BY RICHARD N. OSTLING

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When M.A.S. Abdel Haleem was a youngster in Egypt, all the boys in his school were required to memorize the entire Quran and were tested annually to make sure they maintained this knowledge.

The veteran University of London professor of Islamic studies says he obeys a promise to his father to read the Quran daily, and the childhood training means he doesn't need a printed text.

Haleem has put his lifelong immersion in the Quran and the Arabic language to good use the past seven years, working on a new Quran translation in English that appeared last month: "The Quran" (Oxford University Press).

It's hard to overstate the importance of the Quran, which defines the belief and conduct of a billion-plus Muslims, including a growing number of immigrants in English-speaking nations.

Unlike Christians with their Bibles, Muslims believe the Quran is Scripture only in Arabic because it existed in that form in heaven before it was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Only the Arabic is literally God's word and is always used in Quran quotations during rituals and sermons.

In times past, there were debates about whether it was even proper to translate the Quran. Early English versions came from non-Muslims. No Muslim produced an English Quran till the 20th century. But nowadays,

even strict Muslims promote English editions to aid "dawah," Arabic for "call," meaning missionary work.

Haleem says translations are essential so that Muslims in the West, including his own children and grandchildren, can remain knowledgeable. Georgetown University's Yvonne Haddad says most immigrants' children "cannot read the Quran in Arabic. They may recite it, but they don't understand it."

As with the Bible, there are numerous English Qurans on the market, though experts say many have limitations.

While most English Qurans remain old-fashioned, King James-style English, Haleem employs 21st century language.

The Quran is cryptic, often requiring addition of parenthetical words that are not in the literal Arabic to explain the meaning.

Haleem also inserts "Prophet" in brackets so English readers can distinguish between God's direct revelation to Muhammad and to people in general. And Haleem says the meaning of words can differ between classical and modern Arabic.

That's only the beginning of the difficulties. Amila Butturic of Toronto's York University says the Quran "is so rich, so complex, that even for Arabists and literary critics it's a phenomenal challenge," making any translation "highly problematic."

Haleem believes that in many places, the Quran is a common ground between Muslims extremists and outside opponents of Islam have seriously distorted the meaning of God's revelation.

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Flag ban troubling

I concur with recent letters regarding the ban on flying the U.S. flag, corporate banners, unit guidons and other displays of pride.

While I, too, am not privy to command motivation regarding this ban, I find it troubling. What has happened to an Army that restricts national pride and knowingly affects morale. We are soldiers. We rally around the flag in times of good and bad. Within Area Two of Camp Arifjan, we cannot.

Had this policy been intended for command areas of the garrison, I would totally agree. But this is affecting the test city area of Arifjan, our quasi-housing area. On installations in the United States where I have been stationed I have seen flags flying proudly in housing areas. Why can't we share that same spirit and pride of our stateside counterparts?

Staff Sgt. Wayne Ashby
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Song not linked to slavery

I was surprised to read of the controversy over the playing of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." ["Offensive song," letter, Aug. 19] for returning soldiers. Apparently, some people connect it with slavery.

Actually, it is a variation of an Irish song, "Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye," that predates the American Civil War and has no connection to slavery. The original song is a somber, even anti-war, song. Its lyrics are the voice of a woman looking for Johnny, her son or husband, an Irishman who has served in the British army. He has been so damaged by war, physically or psychologically, that she does not recognize him. The ambiguity of the lyrics makes it universal. The song was brought to America in the great wave of Irish immigration in the 1850s and was adapted into the homecoming song known to Americans. Likewise, "Garryowen," though adopted by the 7th Cavalry, is not about the Indian Wars. It is another

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Irish song celebrating the town of Garryowen in County Limerick.

Marine Col. Joseph F. Collins
Baghdad

A complaint about complaining

Everyone knows that all reservists and National Guard soldiers immediately throw away responsibility, discipline and respect after basic training. Only active-duty training can instill such values in people; thanks for pointing that out ("National Guard training," letter, Aug. 19).

We all know that prior service troops never, ever complain. We should just tell the Defense Department to get rid of its nonprior service reservists and guardsmen, right?

And we all know why those Guard troops joined in the first place: college money. Of course, all of the active-duty troops joined because of things like God and country. None of them would join because they lacked direction and purpose after high school, they wanted adventure, they wanted to see the world, they want-

ed to get job training, they were trying to escape something, or they wanted money for education. They would never join for such selfish reasons and only thought of the United States and freedom when signing the dotted line at the back.

And what about the reservists and guardsmen complaining? I mean, when people start complaining about things like showers or living areas, you know that misery is just around the corner.

Why try to improve your situation or expect better from the military? Soldiers don't have the right to complain, because complaining will surely lead to the demise of the military. It might even cause people to write letters to the paper complaining about complaining. Why try to improve things when you can overgeneralize a group of people and cry about people complaining?

Doing that is so much more constructive.

Sp. Russell Steadale
Camp Victory, Kuwait

Guard serving proudly

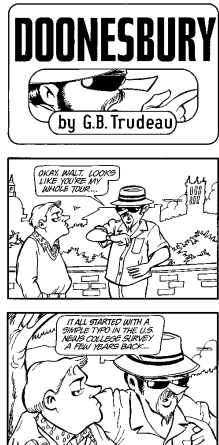
We are one team fighting a common enemy, and not each other. The author of the Aug. 19 letter "National Guard training" fails to realize that the National Guard has been serving in every conflict since 1637. Without the National Guard, our worldwide commitments would not be able to meet.

Training in responsibility, discipline and respect is the responsibility of a leader. If there was a problem with an individual soldier, he should have been counseled and corrective action taken.

The letter writer correlates complaining with irresponsibility, lack of discipline and disrespect. Concerns about living conditions, hygiene facilities and equipment are fair topics to be brought forth for correction.

Many people may have joined for the educational benefits, but the world has changed since they enlisted. They have answered the call, and they are proudly serving.

Sp. Allen Johnson
Camp Bucca, Iraq



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross-section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Three-star lapse in judgment Los Angeles Times

A Defense Department investigation has found that a top army general violated Pentagon rules with his anti-Muslim remarks to Christian groups, yet one Pentagon official dismissed the errors as "relatively minor." That obtuseness reflects a stunning inability to understand how much the comments have hurt the United States abroad.

It is unfathomable why Lt. Gen. William G. "Jerry" Boykin has been allowed to keep his job. When Boykin's remarks became known in October, President Bush limited himself to a tepid announcement that the comments about Muslims and Islam did not reflect his point of view or that of his administration. And Boykin soldiers on.

The general remains the deputy undersecretary of defense for intelligence, the job he held while appearing in uniform to tell an Oregon religious group in June 2003 that radical Islamists hated the United States "because we're a Christian nation and the enemy is a guy named Satan." He told a Florida audience months earlier that a Muslim Somali warlord was captured because "I knew my God was bigger than his. I knew that my God was a real God and his was an idol."

Boykin's comments have been widely reported in the Muslim world. They resonate with supporters of Osama bin Laden and other radical Islamic fundamentalists who have been warring between Islam and Christian "crusaders" and (also) Jews. Any time the flames of bigotry wane, a fundamentalist need only broadcast a tape of Boykin again and a war between Islam and Christianity, made clear by the fact that he holds the same job and wears the same uniform. U.S. Muslims have protested, for good reason.

The normal Defense Department report concluded that Boykin had failed to control the speeches with the Pentagon, had not given a required statement that he was not speaking for the military and had failed to report that a religious group paid for his travel. His punishment is unlikely to go beyond a written reprimand.

The comments would be bad enough from a buck private. From a three-star general whose job includes gathering information for the campaign against Islamic radicals, they are unforgivable. Let Boykin retire and speak out as much as he wants. But do not give others the chance to assume that the general speaks for the Pentagon, the administration and the nation.

Discounts a cut-rate idea Chicago Tribune

Workers of the world, shop till you drop! Then belly up to a five-course meal! Say, how about a visit to a nice comedy club? That's how New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg might express his novel offer to the many protesters expected at the Republican National Convention.

The change from a promise to be peaceful, the violence-averse mayor has announced, protesters can receive discounts at local restaurants, theaters and other tourist attractions — much like the (not at all large-scale) as the discount offers Republican decline receive.

All a protester has to do is to wear a "No political speech" pledge pin and make all at city tourism offices, to receive the discounts.

It seems unlikely that hot-blooded, anarchic protesters would moderate their own anger before capitalism to receive a discount on a T-bone at Broadway Joe Steakhouse on 46th Street. Yet, even streetfighting men and women — should they actually survive in New York — eventually may want to take a guided walking tour of the city, shop for a



ATHENS 2004

new tattoo or perhaps take in a theater performance after arrests. At a healthy percentage off.

Right time for a new CIA Erie (Pa.) Times-News

The chairman of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee has proposed that the Central Intelligence Agency be broken into three new ones.

Kansas Republican Pat Roberts says, "We are not abolishing the CIA. We are reorganizing and renaming its three major elements. No one agency, no matter how distinguished its history, is more important than U.S. national security." Well, breaking one agency into three sounds a lot like "abolishing" it, but let's not stumble over the term Roberts uses.

Roberts proposed that the CIA's "directorates" — operations, which employs spies, intelligence, which analyzes what the spies report; and technology, which provides the James Bond-like gizmos the spies use — each become a separate unit. The advantage? No agency would have a vested interest in skewing results. Those who collect don't analyze; those who analyze don't collect; and those who supply the equipment won't bother themselves about how it's used. They won't need to talk to each other. Presumably they'll talk to the intelligence czar.

This proposal — revamping the obviously-flawed CIA is certainly worth considering — is worthy of serious, informed debate. It's worth having right now.

Unfortunately, America is not likely to get one before the Nov. 2 election. In fact, America probably won't get a debate until after Jan. 21, when the president (whoever he is) takes his oath of office and Congress gets back to business.

True, Americans deserve better; but realistically, they'll have to wait.

Screaming for better security The Times Herald-Record, Middletown, N.Y.

Edward Munch's painting "The Scream" is one of the most famous, most reproduced images on earth. In the rarefied world of art masterpieces, it is one of those works usually referred to as "priceless." That doesn't mean it has no value — \$100 million is the figure tossed around a lot — but rather that it's irreplaceable. So it's probably fortuitous that Munch painted four versions of "The

Scream" because thieves in Norway have had no trouble stealing two of them.

Is this any way to protect national treasures? Not only was the alarm at the museum silent, but also the guards, like many police in generally law-abiding Norway, were not armed. The paintings were attached to the wall only by a wire.

Armed guards? Metal detectors? Fastening the paintings to the walls more securely? Something more could have been done. There are ways to make art treasures available for public viewing without locking them up in vaults or putting them behind bullet-proof glass.

None may be 100 percent effective, but any would be better than what is in place today.

Something should be done before "The Scream" becomes truly irreplaceable.

A yen to reward Yang The Courier, Russellville, Ark.

Supposedly, the Olympic Games are about athletes competing against the best in the world.

No doubt, in the Games taking place over in Athens, we've seen some fantastic performances in marquee events. Die-hard fans have been able to witness greatness in obscure sports as well.

Somewhere in the mix of athletics and pressure and training a lifetime for a few seconds comes intense nationalism. ... But, in the end, the Olympics are about the Games themselves and three-tiered successes (and failures).

That's why no matter how much Americans might support gymnast Paul Hamm, we have to acknowledge that he didn't win the all-around gold medal.

He has the medal, and he stood on the top step at the awards ceremony, but three judges made a mistake. They didn't count South Korean Yang Tae Young's parallel bars routine with as high a degree of difficulty as it deserved. Starting from a lower possible score, deductions brought Yang's score under Hamm's.

Bluntly, Yang should have won the medal.

... No judging error should keep him from having it.

Help mobile homes stay put The Beauffort (S.C.) Gazette

While the death toll from Hurricane Charley was relatively small ... destruction of per-

sonal property was staggering — more than \$20 billion. If such a storm hit Beaufort County it would be especially painful to some of the same categories of people affected in Florida — the poor, the elderly and those who live in housing that government officials classify as mobile homes.

Insurance will help pay for much of Charley's destruction, but an estimated 30 percent to 50 percent may not be covered by insurance, which means total destruction of a family's finances and an inability to rebuild.

As Charley ripped through coastal Florida, some of the hardest hit were families who live in mobile or manufactured homes.

Although Florida has tie-down rules, which affect the stability of a housing unit in a storm ... news accounts described the mobile homes as bent and twisted pieces of metal.

Meteorologists predict that the 2004 hurricane season will be particularly active. For that reason, it would be reassuring that the people who live in mobile homes are warned to get out of the path of a storm and have transportation to safety.

For many it will take federal money to replace their homes.

Again, it would be reassuring that when the homes are replaced they could withstand winds of at least a Category 2 hurricane.

Monitor new overtime rules The Post-Standard, Syracuse, N.Y.

On Monday, new overtime rules that could potentially affect millions of workers became effective. Just what kind of effect the regulations will have on employees is anybody's guess. The Bush administration says 1.3 million more workers will be eligible for overtime pay. Democrats and labor officials say the rules could hurt middle-class and older workers, and may cause millions to lose extra pay.

One thing seems certain. The new regulations were written in a vague enough way that leaves lots of room for interpretation and flexibility for employers.

The Economic Policy Institute, a nonpartisan organization, is convinced the rules will harm millions of workers. It says the consequences are supported by former Reagan, Bush I and Clinton administration labor officials.

Congress should carefully watch this grand experiment. If the overtime rules turn out only to benefit a small group of employees and hurt many more, lawmakers must quickly fix the flaws in the regulations. And they should work overtime to do so.

Sororities hide tests

VA HARRISONBURG — A student worker doing a maintenance check found cabinets full of tests dating from 1951 to 1995 in two sorority residences at James Madison University, but no members will face any honor code charges.

The filing cabinets were found in a mid-July during a check of the Alpha Sigma Alpha and Zeta Tau Alpha residences, which are part of university housing. The employees found the tests in a storage room in the ASA building and in the laundry room of the ZTA house.

The files were sorted by professor and subject, and date back to 1951, ASA president Kathryn Murphy told *The Breeze*, the university's student newspaper.

The university's honor code prohibits collecting old exams, but the current provision was not in effect during the period when the tests were collected, university spokesman Fred Hiltz said Wednesday.

Grandfather sent to jail

TX LUBBOCK — A 64-year-old Lubbock man who pleaded guilty to gunning down his son-in-law in a dispute over the discipline of his granddaughter has been sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Leroy Ward entered the guilty plea, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reports in its online editions.

According to police records, Ward shot Michael Keith Jones during an argument over a spanking that Jones gave to Ward's 14-year-old granddaughter.

During the July 23, 2003, confrontation at Jones' home, Ward threatened Jones with a knife. Ward then left the home and removed a shotgun from his truck. He fired the first of two shots through the closed front door, striking Jones in the chest.

Ward then entered the home and shot Jones again, police said. After retreating from the house, Ward turned the gun on himself as his 12-year-old grandson, who was playing in the front yard, watched.

Ward's self-inflicted gunshot wound did not kill him. He was hospitalized and taken into police custody.

Reptile finds new home

NH HUDSON — A three-foot reptile that was captured has found a new home in Plaistow.

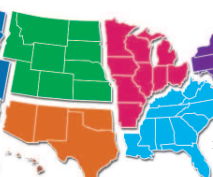
New England Reptile Distributors, or NERD, agreed to take the caiman — a member of the alligator family — and picked it up. Animal Control Officer Jana McMillan said.

Hudson police officers caught the toothy reptile, named Smiley, after a passing driver saw it trying to cross a road and called police.

"Smiley's owner, Andres Lopez, had been keeping the creature in a child's pool outside his home. Authorities told Lopez he needed a secure cage that police had inspected, and Lopez said he thought finding the gator a new home was a better solution, McMillan said.

Bear ignores the music

CO GRAND JUNCTION — Not even loud rock 'n' roll music could discourage a 350-pound bear that repeatedly



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

raided plums and watermelons from a couple's garden.

Eldon and Gerry Nihues hung a radio from the plum tree, tuned it into a rock station and turned it up loud in hopes of scaring off the bear, which helped itself to about 50 watermelons, including 11 in one night.

"It was this crazy rock stuff that was playing, but it didn't bother him," Gerry Nihues said. "He'd eat the plums right out from under where the thing was playing."

The state Division of Wildlife set out a trap, and the bear walked into it. Wildlife officers tranquilized the bear, tagged it and released it in a remote area.

Eight bears have been relocated from the area in the past three weeks, Division of Wildlife spokesman Randy Hampton said.

Man competent for trial

OR OREGON CITY — A man accused of killing two girls and hiding their bodies in his back yard was ruled mentally competent to stand trial for murder.

Ward Weaver, 41, spent four months under psychiatric evaluation.

His trial was suspended in April after the judge ruled that Weaver was severely depressed and could not cooperate in his own defense.

"We will agree that Mr. Weaver has regained his ability to aid and

assist," defense attorney Peter Fay said after Judge Robert Herndon pronounced Weaver fit to stand trial.

The disappearance of the two girls — Ashley Pond, 12, and Miranda Gaddis, 13 — in 2002 prompted a nationwide FBI hunt. The search ended a few hundred yards from the girls' front doors in Oregon City, when their bodies were found in Weaver's yard under a concrete slab and in a shed. Both girls were friends of Weaver's daughter.

Guardsman can't deploy

HI HONOLULU — A Hawaii National Guard member called to active duty must wait before finding out whether his sentencing on a home invasion robbery conviction can wait until after he completes his tour in the Middle East.

Honolulu Circuit Judge Virginia Randall scheduled a hearing to determine whether the order calling Shaun C. Rodrigues to active duty supersedes all pending motions and proceedings in his case, including sentencing.

If the call to duty is given priority, all proceedings in Rodrigues' case would be delayed until he completes his deployment, which is expected to last about a year.

Rodrigues, 24, was found guilty in March 2002 of tying up and robbing two women at gunpoint inside their Manoa home, but sentencing has been delayed by various court proceedings, including his attorney's attempt to get a new trial. He has been free on \$75,000 bail.

Meanwhile, Rodrigues' unit in the Hawaii Army National Guard was mobilized to prepare for deployment to Iraq in February.

Highway chicken spill

PA MARSHALLS CREEK — More than 1,000 live chickens fell off a truck early Thursday on their way from a Pennsylvania farm to an upstate New York processing plant.

At least 100 plastic crates of chickens fell off the tractor-trailer as it rounded a tight curve of Exit 309 off Interstate 80, heading to Marshalls Creek.

The truck left a trail of chickens, feathers and crates for three miles up Route 209 as the driver continued on his way, not knowing he'd lost part of his load. About 6,000 chickens were on the truck, an unknown number were killed.

Deadly overpass incident

MI DETROIT — A construction platform fell Friday as four workmen were painting a highway overpass, killing one worker and critically injuring the other three, police said.

The men, who worked for a company contracted by the Michigan Department of Transportation, were working on the overpass of Interstate 75 in southwest Detroit. They were attempting to lower a 20-by-30-foot platform when a cable holding it up snapped shortly after 11 a.m., police said.

The injured men were taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital. Police were not releasing their names because the families had not been notified. They were employed by Atalis Bros. Painting in Clinton Township, the transportation department said.



Little treasures Dalton Willett, 4 months, lies next to a 2-day-old miniature filly in Pocola, Okla. Johnny Willett placed his son next to the foal to show how small she is.



Too tired to play Northview High School sophomore Jeff Sundheimer takes a siesta on his sousa-vue band members have been practicing since early August for opening night of football season.



Running of the pigs Yukon, a baby pig, leaps over a hurdle to take the lead in the All-Alaskan Pig Races event during the last day of the San Mateo County Fair in San Mateo, Calif.



Thirsty dog

Nigel, a 4-year-old yellow Labrador retriever, happily gulps water from a bottle after playing a game of run-and-retrieve with his owner, Stacy Wright, in Baton Rouge, La.



Patriotic mural

Jefferson Waller works on the details of the American flag on a mural, Walls of Patriotism, on the side of the Nascar's Plus store in Fayetteville, N.C. Waller, who has worked on the mural for over a year, paints for about four hours everyday and hopes to have this side of the building completed by the end of the year.



Strong winds

As a tow service crew prepares to lift a trailer from atop his car, Johnson County Fire District firefighter Scott Goeke steps back to watch in Spring Hill, Kan. The trailer, which is used for search and rescue training, was blown over by overnight storms that swept through the area.



Krispy Kreme debut

A selection of doughnuts are seen on display at the new Krispy Kreme doughnut shop in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington. It was the grand opening of the first Krispy Kreme in the District of Columbia.



Good harvest year

Matthew Bennett is surrounded by corn stalks as he walks his field in Windsor, Ill. It has been a good summer for Matt, who grew about 3,000 acres of corn and soybeans.

UGA cheer coach fired

GA ATHENS — The University of Georgia cheerleading coach was fired after a Jewish cheerleader complained her chances of making the football squad were hurt because she didn't participate in Bible studies and pregame prayers.

Jaclyn Steele, 22, was on the football squad as a freshman but was moved to the basketball squad, a perceived demotion at the football-crazy university.

Steele complained to the university in November and coach Marilou Braswell was placed on probation. Steele was subsequently reinstated on the football squad without a tryout.

But when Braswell told the cheerleaders why Steele was reinstated, the university viewed that as retaliation for the discrimination claims, said Braswell's attorney, Marie Bruce.

Braswell was fired; her termination letter cited "discourteous and disruptive behavior." She said she would appeal.

Stolen laptops recovered

WA SEATTLE — Six laptop computers containing sensitive airport security information that were stolen last month have been recovered, the FBI said.

The laptops, taken from a motel storage room near Seattle-Tacoma Airport after being used to train airport screeners, contained information that screeners could be used by terrorists to evade detection.

But officials of the training contractor, Lockheed Martin, denied that the information in the laptops could compromise national security. Each laptop and all the screener training files were password-protected, officials said.

The person who had obtained the computers and contacted authorities said he realized they had been stolen after reading newspaper reports, FBI agent Roberta Burroughs said. The person is not believed to be involved, she said.

Man acquitted of murder

IL ROLLING MEADOWS — A 28-year-old man accused of decapitating his mother and displaying her head on the front porch of his home because he believed she was Satan was acquitted of murder by reason of insanity.

Judge John Scollito ruled that Karl Snieder of Palatine suffered from mental illness and "lacked substantial capacity to appreciate the criminality" of killing his 49-year-old mother, Kathryn Snieder.

During four days of testimony, four doctors said Snieder was schizophrenic and suffered from delusions and hallucinations.

According to court testimony, Snieder told police he was Jesus Christ, his mother was Satan and that her death in January 2003 signaled the triumph of good over evil.

According to police and prosecutors, the two got into a fight after she told him he should be committed to a mental hospital. He then stabbed her, cut off her head and put it on the front porch.

Scollito ordered Snieder to be evaluated by mental health experts within 30 days. The judge will then determine the number of years and what type of men-

tal-health supervision Snieder will receive. He will remain in Cook County jail until then.

Court reinstates award

MO ST. LOUIS — A Missouri appeals court reinstated a jury's \$8.5 million award to the family of a boy paralyzed in a car seat.

The ruling by the three-judge panel reversed a St. Louis judge's 2002 decision to order a retrial, at the request of car-seat maker Evenflo Co., on claims that punitive damages were wrongly awarded.

Jurors awarded the damages to Damon Steele, whose son Denver John "D.J." Steele, then 2, was injured while riding in an Evenflo car seat during the one-vehicle crash in 1996.

An Evenflo attorney, John Murphy, said further appeals were planned to the full appellate court, then to the Missouri Supreme Court, if necessary.

"I have a problem with a court of appeals decision that reverses a trial court when the trial court says he was concerned whether justice was done," Murphy said.

Ohio-based Evenflo argued that the car's driver, Damon Steele's ex-girlfriend, failed to put D.J. in the car seat properly, and that even if she had, the child would have been injured by the crash's severity.

Cab driver dies of burns

NV LAS VEGAS — A cab driver, or set on fire during a robbery attempt died, three days after being burned over more than 70 percent of his body.

Pauroj Chitrasart, 51, had been in critical condition and on a ventilator since the attack. James Scholl, 33, will be charged with murder, police said. He was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after he was overheard bragging about the attack, police said.

Ballpark employee fired

NJ ATLANTIC CITY — The public address announcer for minor league baseball's Atlantic City Surf was fired and the scoreboard operator resigned after poking fun at Gov. James E. McGreevey's sexual orientation.

Announcer Greg Maiuro dedicated a between-innings rendition of the song "YMCA" to McGreevey during a game, less than a week after New Jersey's governor announced that he had had an extramarital affair with a man and would resign.

The following night, scoreboard operator Marco Cerino posted the message "Sponsored by Gov. Jim McGreevey" on the scoreboard when the song played. Cerino resigned over the incident, the team said.

State teacher shortage

HI HONOLULU — The state was short 357 teachers when public schools started this week, so the Department of Education plans to continue hiring during the school year.

The department also is likely to bring in substitutes to make up the difference.

"It's not ideal, but it's not unusual when you're dealing with the tight labor market for teachers in recent years," said Greg Knudsen, spokesman for the department.

Stories and photos from wire services.

YOUR MONEY

Less money, is still reason to celebrate

Susie Besaw, from the book "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse," is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband, Jake's, new command. Last week Susie landed a good job.

On a Friday morning, I met with Mrs. Thompson and she said Mr. Mickey authorized her to offer me \$15 an hour to work on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It was a bit of a pay cut from the computer store back home, but at least it was a paycheck doing something I enjoyed. And hey, if I impress them, it might lead to more. I accepted the offer and agreed to start the following week.

I was really excited when I hung up with Mrs. Thompson and I had to tell someone. Although I tried not to call Jake at work, I couldn't wait until dinner to tell him. I called his shop and they said he wasn't available. I had to leave a message asking him to call me back since I didn't want to leave a personal message.

Then I called Maggie. She picked up on the first ring.

"Maggie, it's Susie. Guess what? I landed."

"You found a sales job?" she asked.

"Even better," I replied. "I got the job at the NEX." "That's great," she exclaimed. "Let's celebrate and have dinner tonight. I still have everything for my famous Casserole de la Magie. Jim went to some promotional presentation last night at the last minute and I didn't go through the trouble to make dinner for myself."

"See you at six," I said. "I'll bring the salad and make my favorite cherry cheesecake."

Jake called me back an hour later. I told him about the job and dinner. He congratulated me and thanked me for calling. He was having a tough day and he was grateful for some good news to cheer him up.

After I hung up with Jake, I went to the store and bought the ingredients for my cheesecake and the salad. When I came home I started cooking immediately. I needed an hour and a half to make the cheesecake and it had to chill in the fridge before I served it.

When the cake was finished, I left it in the pan to carry it to Maggie's. Then, I emptied the cherry topping from the can into my Tupperware container to make it look as if I made it from scratch. When dessert time came, I planned to break the cake out of the pan and spoon on the topping for effect. Mom always said presentation was 90 percent of the meal.

Dinner was delicious. Casserole de la Magie was almost evil it was so good. When it came time for dessert, my plan worked like a charm. The boys both had seconds and Maggie asked me for my cheesecake recipe. I only agreed if she would swap the Casserole de la Magie recipe.

Next week the Besaws and Warrens talk about investing and insurance.

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — "The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Naval Officer" — can be purchased by writing to Master Plan Inc., 500 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20849 or online at www.savvyweb.com. This article is written and the book is sold with the understanding that neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisers. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability, whether personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using or applying any of the information contained in this article or the book. E-mail for feedback is: finance@stripes.odm

MONEY U.



Ralph Nelson

Teaching children to tip

Kids, especially teens, need to know the art of gratuities. Paying money to someone for performing a service is a skill that requires practice — just like learning to drive a stick shift or tie a necktie.

The fact that many adults don't know the least bit about tipping doesn't help the younger generation. Many adults either tip inadequately, inappropriately or not at all.

When you go to dine with your kids let them calculate the amount of the tip (generally 15 percent of the total check at a sit-down restaurant). Or when traveling with your family, point out the need to tip the baggage handler at the curbside check-in, the hotel maid who cleans your room and the bellman, and the tour guide who showed you the sights. You don't have to be the last of the big spenders either. Even putting spare change in the jar at the ice cream parlor is a way of showing appreciation.

From wire reports



Lynne Wenberg, senior manager of Boeing's part of developing a flying car, holds a remote-control sporty red helicopter/car hybrid engineers created, at the Museum of Flight in Seattle last week. Wenberg, senior manager on the project, said the goal is to make a flying car that costs the same as a luxury vehicle, is quiet and fuel-efficient, and is easy to fly and maintain.

Rising above gridlock

Scientists look at ways to make flying cars a reality

BY ALLISON LINN

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — It's a frustrated commuter's escapist fantasy: literally lifting your car out of a clogged highway and soaring through the skies, landing just in time to motor into your driveway.

Researchers stress that the ultimate dream — an affordable, easy-to-use vehicle that could allow regular people to fly 200 miles to a meeting and also drive 15 miles to the mall — still is probably decades away.

But engineers at NASA, Boeing Co. and elsewhere say the basis for a flying car is there. People have been building, or trying to build, such vehicles for decades.

The problem is, those ideas have generally required both a lot of money and the skills of a trained pilot. And melding cars and planes hasn't always been very successful.

"When you try to combine them you get the worst of both worlds: a very heavy, slow, expensive vehicle that's hard to use," said Mark Moore, who heads the personal air vehicle division of the vehicle systems program at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va.

The goal isn't just to create a neat gizmo: These vehicles will become more appealing — and necessary — as highways and airport hubs grow more clogged, and commutes more distant.

At NASA, the first goal is to transform small airplane travel.

Right now, really small airplanes are generally costly, uncomfortable and loud and require months of training and lots of money to operate; that makes flying to work impractical for most people.

Within five years, NASA researchers hope to develop technology for a small airplane that can fly out of regional airports, costs less than \$100,000, is as quiet as a motorcycle and as simple to operate as a car. Although it wouldn't have any road-driving ca-

pabilities, it would give regular people the ability to fly short distances.

To make flying simpler, NASA is working on technologies that would automate more pilot's functions.

In 10 years, NASA hopes to have created technology for going door-to-door. These still wouldn't be full-fledged flying cars — instead, they'd be small planes that can drive very short distances on side streets, after landing at a nearby airport.

In 15 years, they hope to have the technology for larger vehicles, seating as many as four passengers, and the ability to make vertical takeoffs.

It probably will take years after these technologies are developed before such vehicles are actually on the market. Moore says it will take about 25 years to get to anything "remotely Jetsons-like," a reference to the futuristic cartoon that fed many flying car fantasies.

Researchers at Boeing in Seattle already are thinking that far ahead: They've created a miniature model of a sporty red helicopter-car hybrid that is helping the aerospace giant understand what it would take to make flying cars a reality.

Lynne Wenberg, senior manager on the project, said the goal is to make a flying car that costs the same as a luxury vehicle, is quiet and fuel-efficient and easy to fly and maintain.

Boeing is especially interested in the broader problem of figuring out how to police the airways — and prevent total pandemonium — if thousands of flying cars enter the skies. No one wants to be cut off, tailgated or buzzed a little too closely by a student driver at 1,000 feet.

"The next, gear-whizz part [is] thinking about what would the vehicle itself look like, but we're trying to think through all the ramifications of what would it take to deploy a fleet of these," said Dick Paul, a vice president with Phantom Works, Boeing's research arm.

SEE FLYING CARS ON PAGE 27

“[W]e're trying to think through all the ramifications of what would it take to deploy a fleet of these.”

Dick Paul

vice president,

Phantom Works

FACES 'N' PLACES

Spears' fiancé debuts in music video

Britney Spears' former backup dancer and current fiancé Kevin Federline can add another title to his resume: co-star.



Spears

A Jive Records publicist confirmed Federline is featured in Spears' upcoming "My Prerogative" video, set to debut in mid-September. The song, one of two new tracks off the pop star's upcoming greatest hits CD, is a cover of Bobby Brown's 1980s hit.

According to a message posted by Britney's mother, Lynne Spears, on the singer's official Web site, fans can also expect a cameo by another man. She also said the video is "going to be like none other."

Because of an injury sustained during the shooting of another video, Spears' mom wrote, "Britney's knee is unable to do choreography, the video is all about capturing gorgeous close-ups and very subtle movement."

Big thumbs up from Horn

Roy Horn made a rare public appearance on the Las Vegas Strip, signaling thumbs-up from his wheelchair at a Cuban revue he and partner Siegfried Fischbacher are co-producing.

"He stayed for the whole show and loved it," Dave Kirvin, a spokesman for Siegfried & Roy said Wednesday, adding that Horn met with "Havana Night Club" cast members after the Tuesday night performance.

Horn returned to Las Vegas last weekend from Denver, where he spent two weeks at Craig Hospital, a rehabilitation center for stroke and trauma victims.

The 59-year-old entertainer suffered a stroke that left him partially paralyzed after a near-fatal mauling by a



Horn

trained white tiger during a live performance Oct. 3 at The Mirage hotel-casino.

The attack forced an end to the long-running Siegfried & Roy show.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has been trying to obtain a video that Feld Entertainment, the company that produced the Siegfried & Roy act, shot the night of the fatal show.

The company has refused to release it.

Siegfried & Roy are also involved in an animated television show, "Father of the Pride," that debuts next week on NBC.

Actor 'blown away' with new movie role

Cary-Hirokyu Tagawa, who plays a detective in the new NBC police drama "Hawaii," says he's "blown away" by his upcoming movie role — The Baron in "Memoirs of a Geisha."

"I'm just kind of floating right now," he said from the "Hawaii" set.

"Memoirs of a Geisha," directed by Rob Marshall, stars Michelle Yeoh, Zhang Ziyi and Ken Watanabe. The movie is based on the best-selling 1997 book, which chronicles a young girl's rise from poverty in a Japanese fishing village to life in high society.

Tagawa, who has appeared in the films "Pearl Harbor" and "Planet of the Apes," said his work on the film wasn't expected to disrupt his schedule for "Hawaii," which debuts after the Olympics.

The Wayans become a family of monsters

The Wayans have long been a family of Hollywood.

Now, they will be a family of monsters.

Keenan Ivory, Marlon and Shawn Wayans will write

and produce a new film based on the 1960s sitcom, "The Munsters," Universal Pictures confirmed Wednesday.

The brothers are making a contemporary adaptation of the story of a monster family that never quite realizes that their ghoul-ish ways are different.

No casting has yet been made official, but in the last Wayans written-produced film, "White Chicks," Marlon and Shawn starred as well.

The original Munsters TV show ran from 1964 to 1966. Since then, Herman, Grandpa, Eddie and the rest of the family have appeared in numerous made-for-TV films and the late 80s sitcom, "The Munsters' Today."



Keenan Wayans

Political song gets heated

This song is my song, this song is your song.

That's the agreement reached between the publishers of Woody Guthrie's classic "This Land Is Your Land" and JibJab Media, creators of an animated Internet short that uses the tune in a comic send-up of President Bush and Sen. John Kerry's presidential campaigns.

Ludlow Music, the song's publisher, agreed in a settlement to allow the cartoon — one of the biggest Internet draws of the summer — to keep using the song.

In return, JibJab dropped a lawsuit against Ludlow that had sought an order saying its use of the song was protected because it was a parody and "This Land" was in the public domain.

The creators also agreed to provide a link on their Web site to the song's original lyrics and to donate 20 percent of any profits to the Woody Guthrie Foundation.

Since its July 9 debut, the cartoon — in which equal opportunity insults fly — has been viewed by about 20 million people, according to Santa Monica-based JibJab.

Stories and photos from wire services.

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SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

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Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.

Q Reports say that Michael Jackson has impregnated a surrogate mother with quadruplets. Are you as horrified by this as I am? — Cathy Morgan, Biloxi, Miss.

A Yes, and we're hoping that those reports — which, by the way, Jackson denies — are false. The only celebrities we'd like to see have quadruplets are the genetically blessed Jennifer Aniston and hubby Brad Pitt.



George Michael says therapy and love have helped him finally find inner peace.

Q What has British rocker George Michael been up to since his arrest for lewd behavior in a public bathroom? — Baro Graham, Reno, Nev.

A That 1998 arrest in L.A., which Michael termed a self-destructive act to expose his "last remaining secret" (his homosexuality), was only the tip of his iceberg-sized troubles. After his success in the '80s, he endured a nasty legal battle with Sony Music, the AIDS-related death of his lover, a pot-smoking habit, the cancer death of his mother and severe depression. Michael, 41, credits therapy and a new lover with producing his current peace of mind and his just-released CD, "Patience."

Q The Saudi army recently dealt al-Qaida a major setback by killing its military commander. Does that mean the Saudis are finally getting a handle on their home-grown terrorists? — Samuel Z., Miami, Fla.

A Yes — but only for the time being. Al-Qaida has lost several of its senior operatives in Saudi Arabia in recent months, but it's already regrouping. We expect its new military commander, a 38-year-old militant named Saleh Mohammed al-Oufi, to try to unleash a wave of terrorist violence in the near future.



Momoa: Hair's to ya.

Q I'm a fan of Fox's summer hit "North Shore." I've got a question about Frankie, the bartender: Is that his real hair? — Shon Johnston, Los Angeles, Calif.

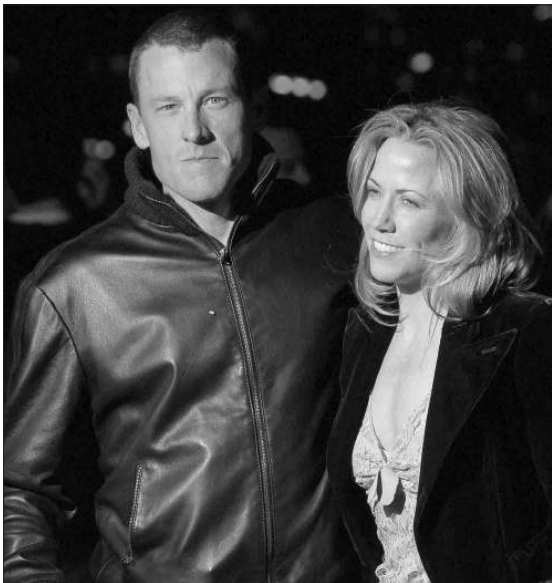
A To Jason Momoa, 25. The former Baywatch Hawaii actor grew up in Iowa but was born in Hawaii to a dad of Samoan ancestry and a mom of Irish, German and Native American heritage. Obviously, his good looks don't hurt his fan appeal.

Q Whatever became of actor John Kerr, best known for playing the sensitive student in the 1956 movie "Tea and Sympathy" and Lieutenant Cable in 1958's "South Pacific"? — R.N.

A Kerr went on to play a lawyer in the '60s on ABC's "Arrest and Trial" and "Payton Place," then became a real life. A graduate of Harvard and UCLA Law School, he was admitted to the California bar in 1970. Now 72, Kerr lives in retirement near L.A.

Q I know more than I need to about Paris Hilton but nothing of her "Simple Life" co-star, Nicole Richie. Fill me in. — Gene Lawson, Walnut Creek, Calif.

A Nicole, 22, was adopted as a toddler by singer Lionel Richie. (She won't confirm who her real dad is and denies reports that he's Peter Escovedo, a former member of Richie's band and recently maestro on TV's "The Wayne Brady Show.") Nicole grew up among Tinseltown royalty and became Paris Hilton's best friend. Her hard-partying ways have gotten her into trouble: Last year, she was arrested for heroin possession. Nicole pleaded "no contest," agreed to enter rehab and is now drug-free.



KRT

Cyclist Lance Armstrong's divorce, and subsequent relationship with singer Sheryl Crow, appear to be unrelated.



Nicole Richie has become a household name with the success of "The Simple Life" 1 and 2.

Q Lance Armstrong may be the world's best cyclist, but I can't respect a man who dumps a wife who stood by him through cancer to hook up with a celebrity. — Leslie Barth, Olathe, Kan.

A We agree with your premise but not your facts. The Armstrongs, both 32, met after Lance had finished chemo. Their split last year was mutual, amicable and probably initiated by Kristin. As for Lance's "hookup" with singer Sheryl Crow, 42, that came later.

Q Why would someone like Nicolas Cage, 40, a distinguished actor and a sophisticated patron of the arts, marry a 20-year-old sushi waitress, Alice Kim? — Richard Johnson, Boulder, Colo.

A He must have a yen for sushi. Only Nic knows why he married again.



KRT

Nicolas Cage recently married a young waitress.

Q Merv Griffin gave Nancy Reagan one of those Chinese wrinkle dogs. Why that breed? — B. Baldwin, North Hills, Calif.

A Because Merv, 79, is extraordinarily fond of his own Ashar-pai, Charlie Chan. He thought the newly widowed Nancy, 83, who'd met Charlie, could use a companion. Incidentally, Charlie — who enjoys traveling on Merv's yacht and private jet — has a restaurant named in his honor at Merv's hotel in Scottsdale, Ariz. Talk about a dog's life.

JAPAN TV (BILGUALING, SPORTS, MOVIES AND MUSIC)

SUN, AUG. 29

Morning
8:00 Olympics Highlights (10)
10:00 "Shog" Lesson/NHK Trophy Tour/ Tournament (3)

Afternoon
12:00 "G" Lesson/NHK Trophy "Go" Tournament (3)
12:00 2004 Hokkaido Marathon (2)
2:45 JICA Tour: NYC Invitational - Final Round (1)
3:00 Japan Junior High School Athlete: Soccer Swimming (2)

3:30 Hisamitsu-KSC Augusta Golf: Final Round (10)
3:50 Olympics: Men's Basketball: Women's Handball, Taekwondo (1)

4:00 Yonex Ladies Golf Tournament - Final Round (12)
5:30 Auto Racing: Japan GT Championship (12)

Evening
6:30 Japan Pro Ball: Yakult Swallows vs. Yomiuri Giants (42)
7:00 News (1)
7:00 Kanagawa Prefecture Boys' Baseball: Chiba Lotte vs. Lotte (2:40)
9:00 Classical Music: 1982 Vladimir Ashkenazy Piano Recital (3)
9:00 U.S. Movie (1998): Robin Williams

9:00 Olympics: Rhythmic Gymnastics, Taekwondo, Men's Wrestling (12)
9:52 Olympics: Men's Volleyball (1)
11:10 Friends (42)
11:50 F1 Grand Prix: The 14th Round, Belgium GP Preliminary (8)
11:55 Olympics: Men's Marathon/ Closing Ceremony (1)
12:00 Kyushin Karate (10)
12:25 J League Soccer: Tokyo Verdy vs. FC Tokyo (4)
1:55 Soccer: Korea Friendship Match: South Korea vs. Lazio (1:30)
2:20 Formula Nippon: The 6th Round, Mine (8)

MON, AUG. 30

Afternoon
1:30 U.S. Movie (1974): Breakout (2:00) (12)
5:50 News (1)

Evening
7:00 News (1)
6:30 Japan Pro Ball: Yakult Swallows vs. Yomiuri Giants (42)
7:00 News (1)
7:00 Kanagawa Prefecture Boys' Baseball: Chiba Lotte vs. Lotte (2:40)
9:00 Classical Music: 1982 Vladimir Ashkenazy Piano Recital (3)
9:00 U.S. Movie (1998): Robin Williams

WOWOW

SUN, AUG. 29

Morning
7:30 U.S. Movie (2000): A Shot at Glory (1:30)
9:30 French-U.S. Movie (2002): Femme d'Alger (1:30)
11:30 German Movie (2001): Nimm die Liebe mit (2:40)

Afternoon
12:00 Afternoon King's Kingdom Hospital (1:30)
1:55 Stephen King's Kingdom Hospital (1:30)
3:55 U.S. Movie (1997): Air Force One (2:10)

Evening
6:00 Japanese Documentaries: Confessions of a Dangerous Mind (1:55)
10:00 Japanese Documentaries: The Grave (1:40)
10:00 Japanese Documentaries: La Sirene Rouge (2:40)
12:30 Pro Boxing: WBA Lightweight Title Match, etc.
4:25 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola

MON, AUG. 30

7:15 Oswald #2

7:30 TV Series: Friends
8:00 U.S.-New Zealand Movie (2002): The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2:10)
11:20 TV Drama: The Red Phone: Mission #1
11:30 Hong Kong Movie (2002): So Close (1:30)
3:00 U.S.-British Movie (2002): Possession (1:30)
5:30 Oswald #2 (1:30)
6:00 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola (1:30)
6:30 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola (1:30)
7:00 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola (1:30)
9:40 U.S. Movie (2001): American Outlaws (1:30)
11:20 TV Series: Sex and the City (1:30)
11:20 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola (1:30)
11:30 TV Drama: The Red Phone: Mission #2

TUE, AUG. 31

Morning
6:30 Oswald #3
7:00 Japanese Documentaries: Friends
8:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (2:40)
11:20 TV Drama: The Red Phone: Mission #2

JAPAN TV (BS11/NHK SATELLITE) (BILGUALING AND SPORTS)

SUN, AUG. 29

Morning
6:00 World News
8:00 Olympics: Track and Field - 4x100 Meters Relay
11:00 MLB: Teams To Be Determined (4:30)
12:00 CNN News
2:00 CNN News
4:00 World News
5:00 CNN News
6:00 Traditional Sports in Asia: Tug-of-War (1:30)
7:00 MotoGP: 10th Round, Czech GP (1:30)
8:00 Japanese Documentaries: Wrestling Championship
9:00 Olympics: Rhythmic Gymnastics (1:30)
11:55 CNN News
12:00 CNN News
1:00 Olympics: Closing Ceremony

Evening
6:30 Olympics: Volleyball
8:30 Olympics: Volleyball
9:00 Olympics: Rhythmic Gymnastics (1:30)
11:55 CNN News
12:00 CNN News
1:00 Olympics: Closing Ceremony

MON, AUG. 30

Morning
7:00 Inside Reports
7:30 Football Mundial
8:00 World News
9:00 MLB: Teams To Be Determined (4:30)

Evening
6:30 Olympics: Rhythmic Gymnastics (1:30)
8:30 Olympics: Volleyball
9:00 Olympics: Rhythmic Gymnastics (1:30)
11:55 CNN News
12:00 CNN News
1:00 Olympics: Closing Ceremony

JAPAN TV (BS11/NHK SATELLITE) (BILGUALING, SPORTS, MOVIES AND MUSIC)

SUN, AUG. 29

Morning
7:00 Inside Reports
7:30 Football Mundial
8:00 World News
9:00 MLB: Teams To Be Determined (4:30)

Evening
6:30 Olympics: Rhythmic Gymnastics (1:30)
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11:55 CNN News
12:00 CNN News
1:00 Olympics: Closing Ceremony

TUE, AUG. 31

Morning
5:30 Olympics: Men's Marathon (4)
6:00 Japanese Documentaries: Friends
12:30 V.P.R. (12)
11:55 Olympics: Men's Marathon/ Closing Ceremony (1)
12:00 Kyushin Karate (10)
12:25 J League Soccer: Tokyo Verdy vs. FC Tokyo (4)
1:55 Soccer: Korea Friendship Match: South Korea vs. Lazio (1:30)
2:20 Formula Nippon: The 6th Round, Mine (8)

Afternoon
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10:00 News (1)
10:00 American Top 40 (42)
2:12 Best Hits U.S.A. (10)
3:04 Buzz Lightyear of Star Command (6)
4:00 News (1)

THU, SEPT. 2
6:45 Between the Lions (3)
7:30 Disney (12)
7:30 Disney (12)
8:30 Italian Movie (1977): Soleil (1:30)
9:00 News (1)
9:00 News (1)

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MTV

SUN, AUG. 29

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
8:00 Daily Asher
9:00 Making the Video
9:00 Rock On
9:30 YATAI
11:00 YATAI

Afternoon
12:00 Special: Punk! Marathon #48
2:00 Wake Up
4:00 Special: Concert in Korea
6:00 Making the Video
9:00 Rock On
9:30 YATAI
11:00 YATAI

Evening
6:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda
8:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda
10:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda
12:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda

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12:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda

Even

AM WEEKLY RADIO

JAPAN - KANTO

EAGLE 810
Morning (Sun)
 7:05 Religious Programming
 9:00 Eagle 810 Sunday Brunch (Smooth Jazz)
Afternoon
 12:00 American Country Countdown
 4:00 A Prairie Home Companion
Evening
 6:00 Focus on the Family
 6:30 Travel Radio
 7:00 Dr. Laura
 8:00 Beale Street Caravan
 9:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
 12:00 2-Rock (Alternative)(Mon-Fri)
 12:00 Sports Overnight America
 4:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation Live (Tue-Fri)
 4:00 NPR On the Media (Mon)
 5:00 NPR Living on Earth (Mon)

Morning
 6:00 Eagle 810 Morning Show (Top 40/Classic Rock)
 7:00 Paul Harvey News and Commentary
 7:20 Pacific Report
 7:24 Paul Harvey Best of the Story
 7:28 Eagle 810 News
 7:30 Zama Commander's Corner (Fri-Saturday)
 Yokota Commander's Corner (2nd & 4th Friday)
 12:00 Pacific Report
 12:05 Pacific Report
 12:27 Paul Harvey News and Commentary
 12:31 Air Force Radio Live
 12:32 Retro Cafe (70s, 80s, 90s)
 14:05 Pacific Report
 3:00 Traffic Jamz (Top 40/Classic Rock)
 4:05 Pacific Report
 4:07 APN Sportspage
 4:12 Paul Harvey Best of the Story
 4:17 Traffic Jamz (Top 40/Classic Rock)

Evening
 6:00 from the Birch Live Sports (Wed)
 6:00 NPR's Morning Edition LIVE
 Yokokata Commander's Corner (1st & 3rd Thursday)
 8:00 Rush Limbaugh
 9:00 The Touch (Urban): Mon/Country: Tues-Fri Gold (Oldies): Wed/Thurs of Ages (Classic Rock): Thu/The Touch (Urban): Fri
 12:00 2-Rock (Alternative)
 2:00 Sports Overnight America
 4:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation LIVE
Morning (Sat)
 8:00 Pacific Report
 8:05 Car Talk
 9:00 Kim Komando
 9:00 Classic Rock
Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40
 12:00 2-Rock (Alternative)
Evening
 6:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night
 7:00 The Touch (Urban)
 12:00 2-Rock (Alternative)
 2:00 Sports Overnight America

4:00 Adult Contemporary
POWER 1575
Morning (Sun)
 7:00 NPR: All Things Considered
 8:00 Rush Limbaugh
 9:00 Parent's Journal
 10:00 Chef's Table
 11:00 Sports Overnight America
Afternoon
 12:00 Adult Contemporary
 4:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
Evening
 7:00 Hot AC
 10:00 The Touch (Urban)
 12:00 The Touch (Urban)
 9:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 6:00 Morning Air Strike
 6:30 Paul Harvey News
 7:10 Horoscope
 7:30 Inside iHeart Radio News
 8:00 Best of the Story
 8:25 David Letterman/Leno
 9:00 Country Call
 10:00 Bright AC/Golden Oldies (Fri)
 11:00 Urban Assault

Afternoon
 1:00 2-Rock/Golden Oldies (Fri)
 2:00 The Afterburner
 2:34 Inside iHeart Radio News
 2:34 Best of the Story
 2:36 Pacific Report
 3:30 Paul Harvey News
 3:30 APN Sportspage
 4:00 Departure Time
Evening
 6:00 NPR: Fresh Air
 7:00 The Rock Show (Mon)/Old School (Thu)
 12:00 Adult Contemporary
 2:00 Country
Morning (Sat)
 6:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
 10:00 Soundbites
Evening
 2:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40
 6:00 NPR: All Things Considered
 7:00 The Jim Rome Show
 8:00 The Touch
 12:00 2-Rock
 5:00 Hot AC

JAPAN - MISAWA

THE EDGE - AM 1575
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 2-Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 6:00 NPR: All Things Considered
 6:00 Classic Rock
 7:00 Religious
 9:00 Oldies
 10:00 Hot AC
Afternoon
 12:00 Hot AC Country
 4:00 Adult Rock
Evening
 6:00 Prairie Home

8:00 Hot AC
Morning (Mon-Thurs)
 12:00 2-Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 3:00 Sports Overnight America
 5:00 Rush Limbaugh
 6:00 Matt in the Morning
 9:00 Hot AC
Afternoon
 12:00 Classic Rock
 3:00 Eagle Afternoon Radio
Evening
 7:00 Hot AC
 8:00 R&B
Morning (Fri)
 12:00 2-Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 4:00 Sports Overnight America
 5:00 Rush Limbaugh
 6:00 Matt in the Morning
 9:00 Flashback
 11:00 Hot AC

Afternoon
 12:00 Classic Rock
 1:00 Inside The Line
 3:00 That Country Show
Evening
 6:00 Classic Rock
 8:00 R&B
 10:00 Hot AC
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 2-Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 4:00 Hot AC
 10:00 Oldies
 8:00 Car Talk
 9:00 Saturday Retro
 12:00 The Touch (Urban)
 12:00 Rick Dees
 3:00 NPR's Music
 5:00 Kim Komando
Evening
 6:00 Jim Rome
 7:00 Morning Report
 7:30 The Week with Sam & Cokie
 8:00 Oldies Radio
 12:00 Noon Report
 12:35 News & Views
 1:00 Dr. Laura
 2:00 Country
 5:00 Jim Rome Show

JAPAN - SASEBO

THUNDER RADIO 1575
Morning (Sunday)
 12:00 2-Rock
 12:00 Hot AC
 7:00 Religious Programming
 10:00 Focus on the Family
 10:30 The Environmental Show
 11:00 Savvy Traveler
Afternoon
 12:00 American Country Countdown
 4:00 Top 40
Evening
 6:00 Classic Rock
 9:00 2-Rock
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 12:00 2-Rock
 12:00 Soft Hills
 3:00 Oldies
 5:00 Rush Limbaugh
 6:00 Morning Drive
 8:00 Country

Afternoon
 12:00 The Jam* with Nikki V. (Mon, Wed and Fri)
 12:00 Adult Contemporary
 12:00 Adult Contemporary
 3:00 The Rush
Evening
 6:00 Classic Rock
 8:00 Hot AC
 10:00 Car Talk
 11:00 Top 40 Show (live)
Afternoon
 12:00 Classic Rock
 12:00 Rick Dees American Top 40
 4:00 Nuestra Musica
 5:00 Country
Evening
 6:00 Urban

KOREA

Thunder AM
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR Weekly Edition
 7:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 10:00 Nuestra Musica
Afternoon
 12:00 Oldies Radio
 4:00 Sports Overnight America
 6:00 NPR Car Talk
 7:00 Prairie Home Companion
 8:00 NPR Weekend Edition Sunday
 11:00 Country
Morning (Mon)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR
 7:00 Morning Report
 7:30 The Week with Sam & Cokie
 8:00 Oldies Radio
 12:00 Noon Report
 12:35 News & Views
 1:00 Dr. Laura
 2:00 Country
 5:00 Jim Rome Show

Evening
 6:00 Evening Report
 6:30 Sports Byline
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition
 10:00 Country
Morning (Tue-Fri)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR
 7:00 Morning Report
 7:30 NPR Marker Place
 8:00 Oldies Radio
 12:00 Noon Report
 12:35 News & Views
 1:00 Dr. Laura
 2:00 Country
 5:00 Jim Rome Show

Evening
 6:00 NPR Report
 6:30 Sports Byline
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition
 10:00 Country
 12:00 City
 5:00 NPR All Things Considered
 12:00 Oldies Radio
Afternoon
 12:00 Country
 8:00 NPR's Morning America
Evening
 6:00 Country
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh
 8:00 Country
 9:00 National Public Radio

OKINAWA

SURF 648 AM
Morning (Sunday)
 6:00 Adult Rock (continued)
Afternoon
 3:00 Sports Overnight America (live)
Evening
 7:00 Car Talk (live)
 8:00 Ben Miller & Jason Smith - Sports (live)
 9:00 Adult Rock
Morning (Mon)
 7:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock
Afternoon
 12:00 Jim Lampley (live) Sports
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 1:45 Paul Harvey
 2:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
 5:00 The Sam Donaldson Show (recorded)
Evening
 6:00 Sports Overnight America
 7:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)
 11:00 Country
Morning (Tue-Fri)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock (Tue-Thu/Country/Fri)
Afternoon
 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded)
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 1:45 Paul Harvey
 2:00 Adult Rock (Tue-Thu/Country/Fri)
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
 5:00 The Sam Donaldson Show (recorded)

Evening
 6:00 Sports Overnight America
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)
 11:00 Country (live)
Morning (Sat)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 10:00 Adult Rock
Afternoon
 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded)
 1:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 Sports Overnight America (live)
Evening
 7:00 Adult Rock
 (Note: Schedule is subject to change because of sports schedules.)

FM WEEKLY RADIO

JAPAN — YOKOTA

FM CABLE RADIO SERVICES (On Base Only)
2-Rock (Alternative) 90.3 FM
Eagle 810 (Variety) 90.7 FM
National Public Radio (News, Talk) 91.1 FM
Bright AC (Pop) 91.7 FM
Adult Rock (Classic Rock) 92.3 FM
FM
 The Touch (Urban) 92.7 FM
Country 83.3 FM
Pure Gold (Oldies) 93.7 FM
Hot AC (Today's Hits) 94.3 FM
National Public Radio
Morning (Sun)
 6:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 8:00 The WFMT Jazz Saturday Night
 11:00 Piano Jazz
Afternoon
 12:00 Beethoven Network
 1:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 2:00 Dialogue
 2:30 Uncommon Knowledge
 3:00 The WFMT Jazz Network
 5:00 Jazz Profiles
Evening
 6:00 Walt, Wait Don't Tell Me
 6:00 A Prairie Home Companion
 9:00 Weekend Edition Sunday
 11:00 Justice Talking
 12:00 Fresh Air Weekend
 12:00 American Life
 2:00 Le Show with Harry Shearer
 3:00 Live on the Media
 4:00 Newmusic Radio
 5:00 Weekly Edition
Morning (Mon)
 6:00 Weekend All Things Considered

8:00 The WFMT Beethoven Network
Afternoon
 12:00 Car Talk
 1:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 2:00 Fresh Air Weekend
 3:00 The WFMT Jazz Network
Evening
 6:00 Morning Edition
 11:00 The Diane Rehm Show (call in)
 12:00 The Connection (call in)
 2:00 Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me
 3:00 Talk of the Nation (call in)
 5:00 All Things Considered
Morning (Tue-Fri)
 7:00 The World
 8:00 Marketplace
 8:30 Says You (Wed) Latino USA (Wed)
 9:00 Talk of Earth (Thu) Uncommon Knowledge (Fri) Rewind (Sat)
 9:00 The WFMT Beethoven Network
Afternoon
 1:00 All Things Considered
 3:00 The WFMT Jazz Network
Evening
 6:00 Morning Edition
 11:00 The Diane Rehm Show (call in)
 12:00 The Connection (call in)
 1:00 Fresh Air
 2:00 Walt, Wait Don't Tell Me (Tue-Thu)
 2:00 Says You (Wed) Latino USA (Wed)
 2:00 Talk of Earth (Thu) Car Talk (Fri) Diane Rehm (Uncommon Knowledge) (Sat)
 3:00 Talk of the Nation (call in)
 5:00 All Things Considered
Morning (Sat)
 7:00 The World
 8:00 Marketplace
 8:30 Rewind
 9:00 The WFMT Beethoven Network
Afternoon
 1:00 All Things Considered
 3:00 The WFMT Jazz Network
 5:00 WFMT Jazz

Evening
 6:00 Thistle & Shamrock
 7:00 Weekly Edition
 8:00 Rewind
 8:30 Says You
 9:00 Weekend Edition Saturday
 11:00 Car Talk (call in)
 6:00 Morning Edition
 1:00 Weekend Edition Saturday
 3:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night
 5:00 National Press Club

KOREA

EAGLE FM
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 2-Rock
 4:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 8:00 Christian Contemporary
 9:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 10:00 Saturday Night 8P
Afternoon
 12:00 Bob Kingsley's Country Countdown
 4:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
Evening
 9:00 2-Rock
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 12:00 2-Rock
 5:00 Live Local Show (Seoul, Ulsan, Incheon, Gwangju, Daegu, and Daejeon)
 10:00 Live Local Show (Seoul, Taegu and Daejeon)
Afternoon
 1:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 3:00 Live Local Show (Korea-wide)
Evening
 6:00 Adult Rock
 8:00 Urban Adult Contemporary
 9:00 Adult Rock
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 2-Rock
 5:00 Bright Adult Contemporary

8:00 Saturday Morning Wake-up (Korea-wide)
Afternoon
 12:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
Evening
 9:00 Adult Rock
OKINAWA
FM - WAVE 89.1
Morning (Sun)
 12:00 Adult Rock
Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
Afternoon
 12:00 American Country Countdown
4:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)
 Morning (Mon-Fri)
5:00 Morning Show (live)
9:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
12:00 Adult Rock
3:00 Afternoon Show (live)
Evening
 6:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
10:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 Adult Rock
Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
8:00 Saturday Show (live)
6:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)

AM RADIO SPORTS AND SPECIALS

OKINAWA

SUN, AUG. 29
Morning
 8:30 College Football: USC Trojans at Virginia Tech Hokies
MON, AUG. 30
Morning
 12:00 MLB: Chicago White Sox at Cleveland Indians
 5:00 MLB: Minnesota Twins at Anaheim Angels
 9:00 MLB: San Francisco Giants at Atlanta Braves

KOREA

SUN, AUG. 29
Morning
 8:00 College Football: USC Trojans at Virginia Tech Hokies
MON, AUG. 30
Morning
 12:00 MLB: Chicago White Sox at Cleveland Indians
 4:30 MLB: Minnesota Twins at Anaheim Angels
 8:30 MLB: San Francisco Giants at Atlanta Braves



STARS AND STRIPES
 Your HomeTown Newspaper

Sunday Horoscope

The full moon in spiritual Pisces emphasizes our need to believe fully in something — anything really, as long as it brings us hope. The outpouring of emotion that will probably occur affects our relationships and the way we feel about ourselves in the world. It may seem daring to imagine that things are possible as they are, but it just may be true.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 29). In this year of increased responsibility and prestige, social rewards spur you on when you need encouragement. Cash flow improves through September because of your assertive moves. A lucky break comes in October. Amorous vibes fall teach you more about what you really want out of life. The best signs for romance are Gemini and Aries.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Love is a push-and-pull game; you'll feel better if you push less and let a sweetheart come to you. Insight and imagination are readily available to you. You'll be inspired to break your own records. Condition a new habit, or train a pet.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Let go of petty concerns, and face the real issue. By making your own eagerness a higher priority, you handle problems. Work on your physical self is never a waste, so allow yourself time to exercise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Dreams you held close to your heart in the past are now resurfacing — how could you have forgotten? Now that you're back in touch, you're also very attractive to anyone who can help you move toward making your dreams real.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's lucky to change your plans, especially if you have a funny feeling. You're struck with interesting notions this afternoon. Share your ideas with a group. Children thrive with more to do and be accountable for.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You show generous appreciation to others all the time, and now, it's your turn to shine. A promise you made

must now be fulfilled. Develop new habits for dealing with stress. Tonight, financial opportunities are right under your nose.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Close relationships of all kinds are strengthened. There's nothing more

cherished than being freshly in love. Do be careful not to go on and on about it to people who simply can't relate. A Sagittarius is an accepting friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's time to review — a necessary process in your personal evolution. When you look back and make an effort to employ what you learned long ago, you can avoid pitfalls, both financial and social.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The stars favor trying something new. Learning to overcome your fear of rejection is a simple process — get rejected a few times, so you no longer fear it. Confidence grows when others respond to spontaneity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are dynamic but need to listen as much as you talk. Diplomacy helps secure your financial situation. Share your burdens. Don't worry about whether or not you have done enough — you have.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Take the direct route to what you want instead of hedging around. The more elaborate the plan, the more likely it is to get muddled and misguided. You shine in any social situation you encounter, so relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Beware of anyone trying to control you with rules. Singles: A love interest is now available and ready to take a chance. All kinds of partnerships show improvement. Someone who owes you money pays up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Events unfold in the perfect order, so let go of the need to manipulate them. Avoid dealing intellectually with an emotional situation. Keep close to a friend who brings out the best in you, and avoid rambunctious influences.

— Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillion



Leaving marriage to alcoholics was right move to make

Dear Abby: I'm writing about the letter you printed from "Fed Up" in Richmond, Texas," whose husband's idea of an evening out or a day off is getting drunk. I hope she takes your advice to go to Al-Anon.

I fell in love and married a man who exhibited similar drinking behavior. It became worse during the 30 years we were together. I was verbally abused, humiliated and, at the end, feared for my safety as well as the children's.

I was very naive. He convinced me that I was crazy, threatened my family and threatened to take off with the children if I left. At age 40, I finally found the courage and strength to do it.

It took lots of counseling, but I now understand that I was caught up in his sickness. I regret that I wasted my youth on this man. I hope "Fed Up" opens her eyes and won't be caught up like I was in what domestic violence counselors call "the honeymoon cycle." That's where you bring his behavior to his attention, he promises he'll change, it's a great month or so — and then he starts drinking

again. I look back over those years and see a bad movie filled with heartache for me and my children.

It wasn't easy, but it has been worth it. I am now treated with the love and respect I deserve.

My children and I are happier than we've ever been. I'm a stronger person now, and we're blessed with a wonderful man who saw us through outrageous court battles, restraining orders, stalking and intimidation tactics.

"Fed Up" deserves love and respect, too. But she and her child won't get it from her spouse if she doesn't DEMAND it. I wish her strength, courage and no regrets.

— **Reborn in Portland, Ore.**

Dear Reborn: I, too, hope that "Fed Up" will take your letter to heart and find help before her husband's problem escalates to the point that your husband's did. Addiction problems cannot be ignored. If the problem isn't addressed, it doesn't "level off"; it grows worse until the addiction takes over the lives of everyone around the addict. I'm pleased that you finally found the strength to free yourself and your children. Thank you for writing.

Dear Abby: I'm 14 and my name is "Pearl." I just found out that I might have chlamydia. I really like him and I need to know if I should tell him. What should I do? I am a little scared. Please answer soon.

— **Needs to Know in Lancaster, Calif.**

Dear Needs to Know: You should be examined by a doctor right away. If you do indeed have chlamydia, your partner must be notified so he can also be treated.

Ask your mother to schedule an appointment for you. If you cannot talk to her about this, then call the county health department and ask for the location of the nearest clinic where you can be treated confidentially. DO NOT PUT IT OFF. If you have chlamydia and aren't treated, it could cause fertility problems for you in the future.

Since you're sexually active, it is important that you learn to protect yourself against an unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases so that you are not reinfected or infect others.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.earthlink.net/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

Cough medicine buzz is not a safe alternative to alcohol

Dear Annie: I am a recovering alcoholic who stopped drinking five years ago. Life was great until I realized that I could get a buzz from cough medicine. Al-Anon, I'm convinced the abuse is making me more creative.

I'm a professional living alone, so I have no one to answer to. I don't want the "high" to sound too appealing. The downside is becoming more obvious, and now, three years later, I can barely keep my head above water. I'm sure I'm an amusing sight physically as well. Can you tell me more about the damage I am doing?

— **Addicted in South Carolina**
Dear Addicted: Some cough medicines contain a high dose, acts as a hallucinogen or dissociative agent. As you build up a tolerance, you will need more and more of it to get the same high.

Here's the downside: Common effects include confusion, dizziness, blurred vision, slurred speech, vomiting, pain, nausea, irregular heartbeat, itchy skin, dry mouth, headaches, drowsiness, impaired coordination, disorientation and numbness in the fingers. Higher doses can lead to auditory and visual hallucinations, vomiting, loss of muscle control, seizures and loss of

consciousness. Although long-term effects are just now being studied, there is some evidence linking abuse to dental decay, memory loss, speech problems, hand tremors and personality changes.

Please try Narcotics Anonymous (www.na.org), P.O. Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409.

Dear Annie: I am writing in response to "Perplexed in Pennsylvania," who was upset because she received a bridal shower invitations asking for cash gifts. I don't find anything wrong with this. My fiancée and I lived together and had all the usual household items, so I had a coin shower. We wanted to remodel our house, and money was much more useful than a bunch of kitchen utensils.

Let us enjoy ourselves. It is our wedding. What's the difference if we ask for money or return all the unwanted gifts?

— **To the Point in Wisconsin**
Dear Wisconsin: The point of a bridal shower is to help the new couple set up their home. Since you've done that, the hostess can plan a gourmet food shower, a wine shower, or even an entertainment shower with tickets to restaurants and concerts. These gifts should be mementos of the

giver, and money doesn't do the trick. The guests have made a great effort to select something they thought you would like.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Cambridge, Mass.," who said her husband told his mother personal things about their life together, including every medication she was taking. My husband did the same thing. He'd tell his mother who then blabbed to the entire family.

When I needed a biopsy done, I made my husband promise he would tell no one, and he said, "Sure, yes." Two months later, my mother-in-law asked how the biopsy went. I became quite angry and said to the man I'd been married to for over 30 years, "I trusted you, and you crushed my soul. I won't repeat that mistake."

My husband never understood my pain at his betrayal, but I never confided in him again. Thank you for saying that trust is the bottom line in a marriage.

— **Better Now in Worcester, Mass.**

Dear Worcester: Some people cannot keep their mouths closed. They don't necessarily mean any harm, but it hurts nonetheless. Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of *Dear Abby*. Please e-mail your questions to aniesmailbox@earthlink.net. Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Pay price of 'king's shilling'

I was watching an old movie the other day when I heard one of the actors say, "When you take the King's shilling, you march to his commands." Having never heard this phrase before, I am curious as to its origin and meaning. I assume it has something to do with a British army enlistee's surrender in his first choice.

You are on the right track regarding this old, seemingly outdated phrase. According to Webster's *Unabridged International Dictionary* the "king's shilling" is "a shilling whose acceptance by a recruit from a recruiting officer constituted in 1879 a binding enlistment in the British army." References to this payment date back at least to 1707. "He did take a shilling,

but not with any intent of listing," wrote one 18th-century essayist, and in 1852, the novelist William Thackeray told of "a fellow (who) was jilted by his mistress, and took the shilling to desert." The designation "king's shilling" is not recorded until the late 19th century. It has continued to be a familiar phrase in Britain.

The meaning of the quotation you've provided is of course clear: Once you accept payment from the king, you are bound to provide that service or suffer the consequences.

This column was prepared by the Creators Syndicate's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Annie's Mailbox



Dear Annie: I am writing in response to "Perplexed in Pennsylvania," who was upset because she received a bridal shower invitations asking for cash gifts. I don't find anything wrong with this. My fiancée and I lived together and had all the usual household items, so I had a coin shower. We wanted to remodel our house, and money was much more useful than a bunch of kitchen utensils.

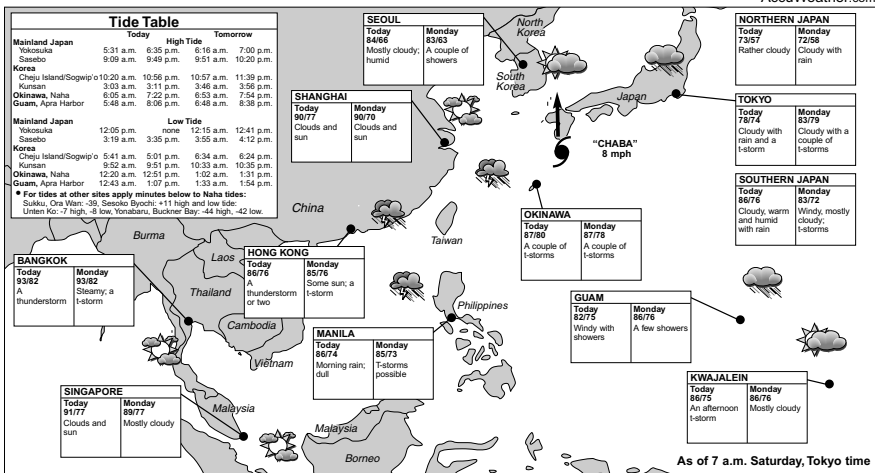
Let us enjoy ourselves. It is our wedding. What's the difference if we ask for money or return all the unwanted gifts?

— **To the Point in Wisconsin**

The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
 Tuesday: Thunderstorms, high 88, low 77.
 Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 89, low 76.

KADENA
 Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 79.
 Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 79.

SEOUL
 Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 75, low 63.
 Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high 77, low 63.

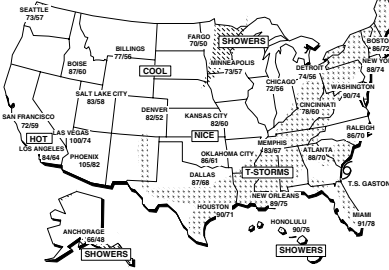
MANILA
 Tuesday: Thunderstorms, high 84, low 72.
 Wednesday: Thunderstorms, high 85, low 73.

HAGATNA
 Tuesday: Showers, high 87, low 76.
 Wednesday: Showers, high 87, low 77.

Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	89/62	Los Angeles	83/64
Amarillo	88/57	Little Rock	94/75
Anchorage	58/51	Louisville	91/74
Ashville	67/62	Miami	83/79
Baltimore	86/67	Milwaukee	86/64
Birmingham	91/73	Nashville	91/72
Bismarck	65/45	New York	85/74
Boise	75/53	Omaha	81/67
Boston	86/70	Orlando	91/74
Brownsville	97/79	Philadelphia	87/71
Buffalo	85/70	Phoenix	105/81
Burlington	85/71	Pittsburgh	86/69
Charleston, SC	85/72	Portland, OR	76/59
Charlotte	87/68	Portland, ME	80/65
Cincinnati	89/71	Salt Lake City	72/50
Columbus, OH	91/71	St. Louis	91/73
Duluth	67/47	San Antonio	98/78
El Paso	98/68	San Diego	74/66
Cleveland	83/68	San Juan	91/76
Helena	67/47	Tampa	91/75
Indianapolis	89/72	Tulsa	98/72
Jacksonville	89/72	Washington	86/72
Kansas City	89/65	Wichita	94/66

Sunday, August 29



U.S. Extended Forecast

The cool front progressing through the East will weaken and stall out along the Appalachians by Sunday, keeping a few showers and thunderstorms around from Maine southward to the Carolinas. Meanwhile, some cooler and less humid air will filter into areas from Ohio to Missouri. Farther west, plenty of sunshine will prevail across the Plains to California under a ridge of high pressure. There will still be hot weather in the Southwest, with typical afternoon thunderstorms continuing each day in the southern Rockies. Another system will drop into the Pacific Northwest by Monday, allowing for breezy conditions with a few showers in Washington and Oregon. Much of the East Coast should experience a good deal of sun Tuesday.

Sunday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	93/82	Iwakuni	89/76	Sasebo NB	86/77
Beijing	82/68	Kadena AB	87/80	Sapporo	73/57
Camp Casey	83/63	Kunsan AB	85/70	Seoul	84/66
Christchurch	48/28	Kwajalein	86/75	Shanghai	90/77
Diego Garcia	80/72	Manila	86/74	Singapore	91/77
Hagatna	82/75	Masawa AB	74/55	Sydney	69/46
Hanoi	87/75	Osan	84/68	Taegu	83/68
Hong Kong	86/76	Perth	94/40	Taipei	92/76
Honolulu	90/76	Pusan	84/73	Tokyo	78/74

Sunday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	89/73	Budapest	83/60	Kabul	74/48
Athens	89/70	Buenos Aires	68/54	Kiev	77/58
Auckland	49/38	Cairo	97/66	Kuwait	113/83
Baghdad	115/80	Cancun	87/74	London	61/50
Barbados	90/74	Cape Town	74/52	Madrid	90/65
Barcelona	74/62	Geneva	72/54	Mexico City	75/55
Berlin	67/50	Istanbul	77/63	Montreal	69/63
Bermuda	87/75	Jerusalem	88/60	Mogadishu	85/71
Brussels	64/44	Johannesburg	69/46	Moscow	75/55
				Warsaw	74/59



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NCAA shuts out USC's Williams

BY DAVID WHARTON
Los Angeles Times

In a long-awaited decision, handed down two days before Southern Cal's opener, the NCAA announced Thursday that it would not reinstate star receiver Mike Williams.

The organization refused to excuse Williams for violating its amateur and academic rules when he tried to join the NFL early — an attempt turned back by the court — last spring.

Coach Pete Carroll, informed of the decision shortly by his team boarded a charter flight for the Black Coaches Association Football Classic in Landover, Md., reacted angrily.

"To take it all the way to one hour before we leave, we asked, 'I couldn't be more disappointed. It's very cold and insensitive of them to deny him this opportunity.'"

Williams took the news calmly, stopping by the athletic department Thursday afternoon, he said he had no plans to appeal.

"I'm kind of done with it, I guess," he said. "Them taking this long, it just makes me believe they gave me a fair evaluation."

At the end of the day, when he stepped back and looked, there was no question he violated the amateurism rule," Lennon told The Associated Press on Friday. "He said 'I want to be a professional, I no longer want to be a college student-athlete.'"

The decision dealt an obvious blow to the Trojans, ranked No. 1 in preseason polls. As a sophomore last season, Williams caught 95 passes for 1,314 yards and 16 touchdowns, helping his team to a share of the national championship.

USC plans to start sophomores Steve Smith and Chris McFoy against Virginia Tech on Saturday.

The team is also dealing with the loss of starting tailback Hershel Dennis, suspended while the focus of a sexual assault investigation.

But the Trojans still have a tal-



Wide receiver Mike Williams, who had 95 receptions for 1,314 yards and 16 touchdowns last season, said he does not plan to appeal the NCAA's decision.

ented defense and quarterback Matt Leinart, a Heisman Trophy candidate. And the new starting receivers have looked impressive in training camp.

"They work really hard and they've got talent," receiver coach Lane Kiffin said. "The only thing is, they haven't done it in games."

Thursday's decision ended a saga that began six months ago when Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett challenged the NFL and its policy of not drafting any player less than three years out of high school.

When Clarett won in federal court, Williams hired an agent and declared himself eligible for the professional draft. At 6 feet 5 and 230 pounds, the All-American receiver was projected as a first-round pick.

Then an appellate court overturned the lower court's decision and Clarett failed in an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Suddenly, Williams had nowhere to play.

In June, he began the lengthy process of applying for reinstatement. That required serving ties with agent Mike Azzarelli and paying back more than \$100,000, some of it money he'd received in deals with Nike and a trading-card company.

At the same time, Williams had to seek an academic waiver because he had left school during the spring semester, violating NCAA rules that require student-athletes to make steady progress toward their degrees.

Williams was allowed to practice with the team but left during training camp to await resolution of his case.

Times staff writer Chris Dufresne contributed to this report.

Jury selection begins in Brant assault trial

BY JON SARCHÉ
The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — Potential jurors began arriving at the county courthouse Friday, the first step to choosing 12 people who will decide whether Kobe Bryant is guilty of sexually assaulting a resort worker last summer.

Many arrived by car, though one rode her bicycle to the courthouse despite a chilly breeze and streets wet with overnight rain. Some appeared to know each other, chatting and laughing as they walked up the circular driveway. All are from Eagle County.

Inside, the approximately 500 jury candidates were to fill out 82-item questionnaires that defense attorneys, prosecutors and their consultants have agonized over for weeks. The media have been barred from the courthouse until opening statements begin, probably Sept. 7.

After 14 months of sordid headlines and days of hearings, determining what questions to ask prospective jurors is critical to both sides as they begin jockeying to select jurors they believe are sympathetic to their arguments.

To do that, attorneys will have to quickly learn a wide variety of details about people who might be uncomfortable in providing them, trial consultant Beth Bonora said.

"You need to understand more than just surface things about someone," she said. "All the social science work done in our field suggests that decision-making based on demographics alone is a futile endeavor. People are more complicated than that."

Bryant, 26, has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault, saying he had consensual sex with the then-19-year-old employee of a Vail-area resort where he stayed last summer. If convicted, the Los Angeles Lakers star faces four years in life in prison or 5 to 10 years in life on probation, and a fine up to \$750,000.

Of the 999 jury summonses mailed out earlier this month, 165 could not be delivered and 150 people were excused primarily because they are no longer county residents or U.S. citizens, state courts spokeswoman Karen Salas said.

Attorneys were expected to begin closed-door questioning of individual candidates Monday, but at-

torneys for news organizations, including The Associated Press, asked the judge to open much of those sessions. A hearing on that request was scheduled for Monday.

Attorney Christopher Beall said the First Amendment requires courts to open jury selection procedures to the public. He said portions of the questioning can be closed to the public if a potential juror asks for a private hearing to answer questions regarding his or her personal history.

Meanwhile, prosecutors are refining their request for a hearing so they can challenge DNA evidence the defense says shows the accused had sex with someone else hours after leaving Bryant.

During a hearing Thursday, District Judge Terry Ruckriegle chastised prosecutors for waiting until the last minute to file a request he said was incomplete. He said he should deny it because the prosecutor most likely would delay the trial, but then gave prosecutors until Tuesday to file a new request with more information.

Prosecutor Dana Easter told Ruckriegle that DNA test results from laboratories hired by Bryant's attorneys indicate there was contamination in control samples intended to ensure accurate testing. She said that threw into question the reliability of conclusions made by defense DNA expert Elizabeth Johnson, who has testified she believes the accused had sex with someone else soon after her encounter with Bryant. The woman's attorneys have denied that claim.

Easter said she could not have questioned the results earlier because the defense dragged its feet in providing information needed to evaluate DNA test results.

"We have acted as well as we can," she told the judge. "The prosecution has not had \$12 million to pay for experts."

Defense attorney Hal Haddon said prosecutors' requests for the hearing and for information he says has already been provided them were made primarily to inflame public opinion on the eve of trial.

"These motions are humbly designed to distract us from trial preparation, designed to generate cheap headlines and, most of all, designed to confuse the jury," he said.

Ruckriegle ordered prosecutors to turn over laboratory logs of actions taken to correct any problems.

R. Williams speaks with Wannstedt

The Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — Ricky Williams phoned the Miami Dolphins this week, but said his next destination will be India, not a return to the NFL.

The retired running back contacted coach Dave Wannstedt several days ago, sources close to the coach said Thursday. But Williams told The Miami Herald he has no plans to come back anytime soon.

Prompting the latest call was a letter the Dolphins sent Williams last week seeking to recoup \$8.6 million in bonuses paid to him.

"I didn't call them to see if I could come back. I was just causing a conversation to happen," Williams told The Herald from Australia. "They sent me the letter and [my agent] told me it's in my best interests to call them."

Even if he 27-year-old decided to return, he faces a suspension for the entire 2004 season for violating the NFL drug policy.

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Another Cardinal injured

The Associated Press

PRESCOTT, Ariz. — Arizona Cardinals defensive end Fred Wakefield has a stress fracture in his right foot and will miss 6-8 weeks.

He is the sixth Cardinals player to suffer a serious injury this summer, joining running back Marcel Shipp (broken leg), wide receiver Anquan Boldin (right knee), defensive tackle Kenny King (broken wrist), fullback James Hodgins (shoulder) and receiver Bryant Johnson (broken right foot).

Shipp is out for the season and King could be, too.

Boldin is out until mid-October and Hodgins won't be back until late September.

Rookie receiver Larry Fitzgerald is hobbled by a sprained left ankle. Fitzgerald and Johnson likely will suit out the team's final two exhibition games.

Jaguars sign PK Christie

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars signed 14-year veteran placekicker Steve Christie on Thursday.

The 36-year-old Christie spent the previous three seasons with San Diego, where he made 42 of 57 field goals.

NFL
briefs

Pavin leads Buick with career-low 62

The Associated Press

CROMWELL, Conn. — Corey Pavin made seven birdies and matched his career low with an 8-under-par 62 for a three-stroke lead in the inaugural Buick Championship on Thursday.

Bob Burns and Matt Weibring were second at 5-under 65. Bunched four strokes behind the leader with 66s were Fred Funk, David Peoples, Jerry Kelly, Jason Dufner and Craig Bowden.

Pavin started strong, holing a 120-yard wedge shot on the 341-yard second hole for an eagle. His seven-birdie round included a 45-foot chip-in on No. 18.

His only stumble was a bogey on No. 12, when he missed a 10-footer for par.

The 44-year-old matched his 62 in the Texas Open in 1990. It marked a season low for Pavin and his best round in 12 appearances in the tournament.

Jimenez leads BMW by one

NORD EICHENRIED, Germany — Miguel Angel Jimenez's 66 gave the Spaniard a one-shot lead Friday in the BMW International Open while European players scrambled to make the Ryder Cup team.

Four Ryder Cup berths and two



captain's picks are up for grabs in the final qualifying event to make the 12-man team which plays the Americans at Michigan's Oakland Hills on Sept. 17-19.

Jimenez, who's already clinched his second Ryder Cup appearance, posted a two-day total of 10-under 134, a shot better than England's David Lynn.

Jacobson shared the day's best round of 65 and was two strokes off the lead at 136, along with Austria's Markus Brier.

Colin Montgomerie, a member of five winning Ryder Cup teams, is three strokes back. He survived a double bogey Friday on the sixth hole, and fought to post a 70 after Thursday's 67. He made birdies on Nos. 12, 13 and 15.

John Daly was tied with Montgomerie at 137, along with Denmark's Anders Hansen and Welshman Bradley Dregde.

Trio at 67 lead senior major

ALOHA, Ore. — Jose Maria Canizares birdied his last hole to complete a 5-under-par 67 and share the first-round lead with



Corey Pavin made seven birdies and an eagle and took just 23 putts Thursday in the Buick Championship, formerly known as the Greater Hartford Open.

Bruce Summerhays and Vicente Fernandez in the Tradition on Thursday.

Fuzzy Zoeller was one shot back at the soggy Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club in the fifth and final major of the season on the Champions Tour.

Local favorite Peter Jacobsen was one of nine players two strokes back after an opening 69. Defending champion Tom Watson shot a 73 as golfers battled frequent squalls and slow play.

Three tied atop Wachovia field

KUTZTOWN, Pa. — Laura Diaz had a run of five straight birdies and was tied for the lead with Jill McGill and Hilary Lunke at 6-under-par 66 after the opening round of the Wachovia LPGA Classic.

NHL talks break down

The Associated Press

An NHL executive accused the players' association of conducting "a charade" and said the union

has no interest in working out a new labor deal before a lockout would be imposed in three weeks.

The sides concluded a two-day negotiating session in Ottawa on Thursday, but came away seemingly further apart than ever. The current collective bargaining agreement expires Sept. 15, and it appears likely that a lockout will occur before any common ground is reached.

"We want to move the process along. They're looking to stall," NHL executive vice president Bill Daly told The Associated Press.

NHLPA senior director Ted Saska disputed the claims in an interview with the AP and said that it's the NHL, which has been getting ready for a lockout since 1998 in order to get an economic system based on a salary cap.

"To suggest that players are trying to get locked out is absolutely ludicrous," Saska said. "It's obviously (commissioner Gary Bettman) approach to try to use his lockout to put economic pressure on the players to try to force them to agree to a system they would never negotiate across the table."

The union has vowed it won't accept a salary cap.

In its only proposal since negotiations on a new deal began last

October, the union has put forth a system that includes a luxury tax, a salary rollback, and revenue sharing.

The NHL is not interested in that type of deal, and Daly said that the NHLPA has known it for a long time.

During recent negotiating sessions, the NHL has proposed six concepts it feels could lead to a solution. The NHLPA rejected them all, saying that each is predicated on a salary cap.

The sides are scheduled to get together for another two-day meeting next week in Montreal.

Commercial return to Masters

The Masters is no longer commercial free, signing up three television sponsors Friday for the first time since Martha Burk led a corporate campaign against Augusta National and its all-male membership.

Club chairman Hootie Johnson said the Masters would add 90 minutes of TV coverage and go back to its four minutes of advertising every hour.

Johnson two years ago dropped the Masters' only TV sponsors — IBM, Coca-Cola and Citigroup — to keep them from being pressured by Burk and her National Council of Women's Organizations. Burk had written each company that their sponsorship endorsed sex discrimination.

IBM is the only company that returns for the US Masters. The club also signed sponsorship deals with ExxonMobil and SBC Communications.

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Gordon's Bristol pole is sixth of the season

Points leader taking aim at his sixth victory on NASCAR's shortest track

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Jeff Gordon counted out his five victories this season, and then his five poles. It was an hour before qualifying, and Gordon set a goal for himself.

"I think I want to make it six and this weekend," he said. Gordon took the first step Friday, winning the pole for the Sharpie 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway with a speed of 128.520 mph.

It was the 52nd pole of his career, a series-best sixth this season, and put him in perfect context for his sixth Bristol victory.

His last victory here came in 2002, when he snapped a 31-race drought by winning the night race. Gordon celebrated that victory as if it was the first of his career.

"That was really spectacular for me," Gordon said. "It's a place that just surviving is one thing and to win is amazing. I love this track. It reminds me of the short-track days, and I love putting these big heavy cars on it."

Gordon has proven to be a master at Bristol — at least when it comes to qualifying. The Chevrolet has started on the pole the past three night races and has been on the front row the past six events.

Rookie Kasey Kahne, who qualified second in a Dodge at 127.410 mph, knows getting around Gordon on race night won't be easy.

"He has a knack for this place," Kahne said. "He is always very good at this place, and I think Jeff Gordon is just an excellent driver here."

"But I have an awesome car, and if it's that awesome in the race, I'll have a shot at it."

Tennessee native Sterling Marlin qualified third in a Dodge, his best starting position on his home track since 1997. But Marlin, who has never been to Bristol's Victory Lane and hasn't won at all since 2002, is more interested in his finishing position.

Nextel Cup-Sharpie 500 lineup

After Friday's qualifying race Saturday at Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol, Tenn.
Lap length: .533 miles
(Car number in parentheses)

1. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 128.520
2. (43) Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 127.410
3. (40) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 127.292
4. (14) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 127.284
5. (42) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 127.278
6. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 127.270
7. (6) Mark Martin, Ford, 126.947
8. (39) Elliott Sadler, Ford, 126.821
9. (15) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 126.812
10. (16) Greg Biffle, Dodge, 126.670
11. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 126.595
12. (51) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 126.545
13. (2) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 126.486
14. (98) Dale Earnhardt, Ford, 126.353
15. (30) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 126.337
16. (04) Ward Burton, Chevrolet, 126.312
17. (77) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge, 126.277
18. (31) Bobby Gordon, Chevrolet, 126.245
19. (18) Robby Bonine, Chevrolet, 126.212
20. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 126.021
21. (28) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 126.005
22. (41) Casey Mears, Dodge, 126.005
23. (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 125.980
24. (97) Kurt Busch, Ford, 125.955
25. (99) Scott Edwards, Ford, 125.856
26. (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 125.856
27. (43) Jeff Green, Dodge, 125.808
28. (00) Kenny Wallace, Chevrolet, 125.718
29. (37) Kevin Leape, Dodge, 125.642
30. (06) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 125.518
31. (45) Wally Pory, Dodge, 125.448
32. (13) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 125.428
33. (51) Tony Raines, Chevrolet, 125.289
34. (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 125.364
35. (21) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet, 125.109
36. (15) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 125.036
37. (01) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 124.686
38. (4) Jimmy Spence, Chevrolet, 124.660
39. (00) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, provisional
40. (50) Todd Bodine, Dodge, provisional
41. (09) Mike Wallace, Dodge, provisional
42. (98) Derrick Cope, Ford, provisional
43. (09) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, provisional



Jeff Gordon was all smiles Friday after winning the pole for Sunday's NASCAR race at Bristol.

in Dodge and Tony Stewart was sixth in a Chevrolet. Mark Martin, Elliott Sadler, Jeremy Mayfield and Greg Biffle rounded out the top 10.

Jimmie Johnson, who lost the lead in the driver standings last week to Gordon after his third-straight DNF, qualified 11th. He wrecked his Chevrolet in the second practice session and his team was taking out the back-up car to prepare. If he uses it, he'll have to go to the back of the field for the start of the race.

Nine-time Bristol winner Rusty Wallace, who is expected to announce Monday that 2005 will be his last season, was 13th.

Kurt Busch, winner of the past three Bristol races, qualified 24th.

Bristol will be a critical race in setting the participants for NASCAR's 10-race playoff. There are just three races until the field is set, and teams are scrambling to make the cutoff. Only drivers within the top 10 in the standings, and anyone within 400 points of the leader, will be eligible.

Gordon is safely into the chase. But most of the guys starting behind him aren't, beginning with Kahne, who has a slight hold on the 10th spot.

Right behind him are Newman, McMurray, Martin and Mayfield — all of whom are racing hard to get in.

But Bristol is a dangerous track, partly because of the tight confines of the .533-mile bullring. The cars are bumper to bumper for most of the race, and one slight error can wipe out half the field. Accidents are plentiful, and getting knocked out on Saturday night could eliminate a driver's chance to qualify for the chase.

Busch aiming to keep winning streak alive

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

A lot of drivers just hope to get through a Nextel Cup race at Bristol Motor Speedway with both ends of their car intact.

Not Kurt Busch. He goes to Bristol to win.

The 26-year-old NASCAR star will go into Saturday night's Sharpie 500 on the very fast half-mile oval looking for his fourth Bristol win in a row and fifth in his last six starts at the Tennessee track.

His four wins there are nearly half of his career total of nine.

"It's a daunting task to say the least," Busch said about winning at Bristol. "Each time I go there, I don't expect to win and I don't expect to run bad."

"It's just a matter of controlling the most that you can within your car."

Yeah, it's difficult to forecast when someone spins and wrecks in front of you which way to go because you have to make those split decisions.

Busch said the key is to absorb what he sees in front of him on the track, "whether it's a car you've got to pass or whether it's a different stage in the race."

"If it's early in the race, you're more conservative," he explained. "If it's later in the race, and somebody is faster than you, it is difficult to keep a car behind you because they can move you out of the way."

Busch also has the comfort of knowing he headed into Bristol sixth in the points standings with only three races remaining before NASCAR's new 10-race championship showdown begins. Only the top 10 drivers in the points after the Richmond race on Sept. 11 will be eligible to race for the title.

Racing for fun: It appears that Mark Martin enjoyed getting back into harness for his first Busch Series race since 2000.

After coming from last place to

Racing notes

finish second to rookie Kyle Busch in last Saturday's Busch event at Michigan International Speedway. Martin has announced he will run four more races this season in the stepping-stone series.

The 45-year-old Martin, who holds the record for career Busch victories with 45, was nearly unbeatable in that series before he decided to retire from it and concentrate on the championship series.

"I worried that we wouldn't be able to hold up the strong legacy that he set several years ago, but I think we were able to maintain that," Martin said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to rack up a couple of more wins down the stretch."

Martin plans to race next at Richmond on Sept. 10 and also compete in the Busch events at Dover, Atlanta and Phoenix, races originally slated to be run by Jeff Burton. Burton left the Roush team last week to join Richard Childress Racing.

Milestone man: The race at Bristol is the 200th of Tony Stewart's Cup career.

"It's pretty cool, but I've been racing for a long time. I think of guys like Ricky Rudd (826) and Terry Labonte (547) and Kyle Petty (701), 200 starts seems pretty small to the accomplishments those guys have had. But it's still pretty neat to know that we've run 200 Cup races."

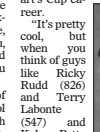
Since beginning his career in 1999, Stewart has recorded 19 wins, 76 top fives, 118 top 10s and a Cup championship in 2002, while earning more than \$30 million in prize money.



Martin



Busch



Stewart



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DAVE ORSHAUER/Stars and Stripes

Cherylton McRae of Futenma Marine Corps Air Station on Friday was selected for the All-Marine men's softball team for the 14th time.

Healy makes cut in All-Marine softball

Futenma's McRae chosen for 14th time

Stars and Stripes

July's nightmare turned into an August dream for Kevin Healy.

The shortstop for Marine Corps Base Camp Butler was selected Friday to the 15-player All-Marine men's softball team, scheduled to play in the All-Marine Forces championship Sept. 8-10 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

His selection came after a lackluster performance in last month's Marine Forces Pacific Regional Tournament on Okinawa, in which the speedy 25-year-old corporal batted just .286 (8-for-28) with no extra-base hits, three steals and several fielding errors.

All-Marine coach Darryl Shamble said he told Healy to put the regional behind him and concentrate on doing what he does best during the three-week All-Marine tryout camp at Cherry Point Air Station, N.C.

"The first week, I told him to just hit the ball the way he does naturally, and he hit it right, batted around .400," Shamble said

by telephone from North Carolina.

What impressed Shamble the most during camp, he said, was Healy's fielding and baserunning. "He was taking away a lot of outs with his glove. And he's been stealing a lot of bases," Shamble said. "That's why I kept him, defense and speed."

Joining Healy on the All-Marine team is Cherylton McRae of Futenma Air Station, who leads all current active-duty military personnel in selections to an All-Service team. He'll don the All-Marine uniform for a 14th time in his storied career.

The Marines will be looking to wrest the gold medal from Army and regain the championship they last won in 1999. The closest the Marines have come since then was two years ago, when they lost 36-35 in eight innings to Air Force on Aug. 24, 2002.

Players selected for the All-Marine Forces team will move on to the Amateur Softball Association Class A national championships, scheduled for Sept. 16-19 at Sanford, Fla.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Seven Cuban fighters advance to gold-medal boxing matches

Only light heavyweight Ward will represent U.S. in championship bout

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Heavyweight Odanier Solis led seven Cuban fighters into the final round of the Olympic boxing tournament with semifinal victories Friday, assuring the team will head home with one of the more impressive medal hauls in Olympic history.

The powerful Cuban team lost just one of its semifinal bouts at Peristeri Olympic Boxing Hall. Three Russian fighters advanced, along with two from Kazakhstan, Thailand and Belarus.

In the Cubans' most authoritative victory, Solis' bout against Syria's Naser Al Shami was stopped in the third round. Solis, a two-time world champion who succeeded three-time gold medalist Felix Savon in the weight division, will fight Belarus' Viktor Zuyev on Saturday for his first Olympic gold medal.

Flyweight Yuriorkis Gamboa and light welterweight Fadel Johnson also won their afternoon semifinal bouts. Light flyweight Yan Bartelety, bantamweight

Guillermo Rigondeaux, light-weight Mario Kindelan and welterweight Lorenzo Aragon advanced in the evening, all winning by at least 10 points.

Only Cuban super heavyweight Michel Lopez Nunez failed to advance, losing to Egypt's Mohamed Aly 18-16.

Russian welterweight Oleg Saitov also failed in his quest for his third gold medal, losing to Kazakhstan's Bakhtiyar Artayev 20-18.

Amir Khan, Great Britain's 17-year-old lightweight sensation, advanced with a 40-26 win over Kazakhstan's Serik Yeleuov. His match against Kindelan, the 33-year-old defending gold medalist and three-time world champion who will retire after the fight, might be the most anticipated of Sunday's six bouts.

Light heavyweight Andre Ward was the only U.S. boxer to advance to the final round, beating Uzbekistan's Utkirbek Haydarov to keep alive his six-year winning streak. Ward will meet Belarus' Magomed Agapiev, who endeared himself to Greek boxing fans with a bloody 23-20

victory over Egypt's Ahmed Ismail.

Ismail Tuesday when Greece's Elias Pavlidis was disqualified while leading their quarterfinal bout because of cuts on his face. The crowd that night threw water bottles at the ring and forced Ismail to flee; Greece protested the result later, saying Pavlidis' injuries were caused by illegal blows.

The near-capacity crowd made its sentiments known early in the semifinals: They booed Ismail with even more fervor than Ward, who drew the usual anti-American sentiment, and they chanted "Hellas! Hellas!" in the first round.

The crowd also cheered when Ismail's nose was bloodied in the fourth round. Ismail laughed off the attention, blowing kisses to the crowd before and after the verdict was announced.

Gambao will meet France's Jerome Thomas, a 23-18 winner over Azerbaijan's Foad Aslanov. Johnson, who held off Bulgaria's Boris Georgiev 13-9, will have a challenge against entertaining Thai fighter Manee Boonjumnong, who beat Romania's Ionut Georgehe 30-9.

Swoopes saves day vs. Russia

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Frustrated by fouls, turnovers and a feisty opponent, the United States desperately looked for help.

Along came Sheryl Swoopes.

Swoopes made six big plays at the end — two baskets and another on defense — to help the U.S. squeeze out a 66-62 semifinal victory over Russia on Friday. Now, only one game stands between the U.S. team and a third straight gold medal — Australia on Saturday.

"We just weathered the storm," Lisa Leslie said. "We showed a lot

of heart and stayed together and Swoopes stepped up big at the end.

Australia beat Brazil 88-75 behind Lauren Jackson's 26 points and 13 rebounds. It's a rematch of the gold-medal game in Sydney four years ago, when the United States won 76-54.

The U.S. knows it earned its berth because the game with Russia was neither easy nor pretty. After winning their first six games by an average of 29 points, the U.S. team found itself in the rare position of having to fend off an opponent with team running out.

Enter Swoopes, who hadn't made a basket in this game.

With her team clinging to a 60-58 lead, Swoopes buried a jumper from the left wing with 3:54 remaining, just beating the shot clock. She deflected a Russian shot at the other end, then scored again, hitting a 10-footer from the left baseline to make it 64-58 with 3:15 left.

When Lisa Leslie fed Tina Thompson for a layup, it was 66-58 with 2:50 to go, enough of a cushion for the United States to hold on for its 24th straight victory in the Olympics.

Thompson led the United States with 14 points, including a key three-pointer early in the fourth quarter. Leslie and Tamika Catchings scored 11 each.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Goodbye: Senior group passes tradition of winning to young players

GOODBYE, FROM BACK PAGE

us of what we've always loved the American team for most, not the medals, but the honesty of their effort over all those years, when they played with no one watching, for waitresses' pay.

"Dedicated," Foudy said. "I think people will remember that we were dedicated."

As the final whistle blew, Hamm suddenly appeared at Foudy's side, and grabbed her in an embrace. Then the circle of the hug began to grow, to include the fellow teammates who essentially founded women's soccer in the United States more than a dozen years ago, when they made exactly \$250 per game, and played across whole continents when it was considered a game strictly for men.

"There are few times in life when you get to write the final chapter the way you want to, and a lot of us got to do that tonight," Hamm said.

For the medal ceremony, they approached the podium together, holding hands, their arms wrapped around each other, no air between them. That's when they started playing what they like to call "the telephone game." Foudy turned to Fawcett and said, "Right foot forward, pass it down," dictating instructions.



Even with veteran players retiring, the future of the United States women's soccer team seems to be in good hands with Abby Wambach (16), who scored the winning goal in Thursday's gold-medal game.

The message was murmured down the line.

Then Foudy said, "Bottle of vodka, pass it down."

Still cracking up, together they stepped up to the medal stand, and fairly shouted the national anthem. Then they returned to the locker room, where a slightly more somber mood took hold. Some of them had played together for 17 years, sharing a litany of victories: the first Women's World Cup in '91, Olympic gold in Atlanta in '96, and their magnificent World Cup victory again in '99, when Chastain tore off her shirt and displayed the abs heard round the world. But they'd also

suffered wrenching losses in the past four years, aging runners-up to younger teams, teams from countries where they had helped to sow the game. "It's gotten harder and harder," Foudy said. "And that makes it sweeter."

But that it's finally time for them to step away is obvious. Hamm, Foudy and Fawcett have all declared their retirements from the international game, while Lilly and Chastain are considering how much longer they can or will play. There was no uncertainty in Hamm, who acknowledged she was carried through the final by her younger teammates. "If you only knew how my body feels right now," she said.

The final goals of the tournament, Foudy pointed out, were scored by some of the youngest members of the team: Heather O'Reilly, 19, Lindsay Tarpley, 20, and Wambach, 24.

The legacy the senior group passes on to the younger players is immense: They can be credited with nothing less than the founding of women's soccer as an international game. But they leave a legacy in the small things, too. Through it all, they've never put a foot wrong, or behaved like anything other than champions. They were the nicest and best behaved athletes on the planet, no self-absorbed egotists, no whining about life's unfairness, no jealous spats or wretched excesses. The worst that could be said of them was that they were joyous carousers. They were one of the few things left in sports you could watch without suspicion.

Perhaps their most pleasant quality as a group was that they weren't particularly conscious of their specialness. Hamm, for instance, has never seemed aware that she's pretty. The greatest goal scorer in the game and one of the most photogenic female athletes is, as it happens, deeply shy. At an awards banquet a few years ago, Hamm tried to explain why she had always been so self-conscious in public.

The trouble, she said, was that people watched you, whether you liked it or not. "So who am I to say I'm not a role model?" she said.

Even after all these years she wears the pained expression of a wallflower at a dance, and talks as if it's been unbearably selfish of her to have inflicted this soccer business on us. Hamm's first order of business now that she's retired from international play, she says, is to repay her family.

"It's time for me to repay them and ask them what they need in their lives," she said.

In the locker room after the medal ceremony, Hamm, Foudy and the other senior members addressed the team. There was a lot of talk about torch-passing and some final remarks. The theme was, "that it's more than just soccer, you know?" Foudy said. "It's bigger than that."

Then Foudy told the team that it wasn't really goodbye. Whenever the U.S. team plays for a big prize, she said, she will be there, and so will Hamm, and Chastain, and all the others. Only they would be in the bleachers. "We're looking forward to cheering you on, screaming for more gold medals," she said.

It was a pleasant thought Foudy entertained, as she left the stadium as an Olympian for the last time. "We'll be right there, in the front row," she said, "drinking beers and being hoiligans."

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Italy ends Iraq's shot at medal

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Iraq's surprising Olympic success came up short with a 1-0 loss to Italy in a bronze-medal game that couldn't escape reminders of violence in the war-torn country.

Just before kickoff Friday night, the teams exchanged words of condolence for Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni, who was killed by Iraqi militiamen seeking to force Italy's troops out of Iraq.

Italian players also wore black armbands to honor Baldoni.

On the field, Alberto Gilardino scored his fourth goal of the tournament in the eight minute to seal Italy's first soccer medal since it won gold in the 1936 Berlin Games.

The loss meant the Iraqis go home with nothing after coming to win the nation's first medal of any kind since 1960. Adnan Hammad's players, who were unable to play any qualifying games in Baghdad because no teams would travel there, made many friends by reaching the semifinals.

Modern pentathlon

Women: Three-time world champion Zsuzsanna Vörös of Hungary won the gold medal, shot a 41-second lead start on her nearest rival entering the final 3-kilometer run and had time at



Army Capt. Anita Allen of the United States, left, attacks **Monica Pinte** of Canada during their bout in the women's modern pentathlon on Friday in Athens, Greece. **Allen finished 18th overall** in the event.

the end to grab a Hungarian flag from the stands while jogging down the home stretch.

Latvia's Jelena Rublevska ended with the silver medal. Georgina Harland of Britain took the bronze medal.

Army Capt. Anita Allen finished 18th overall, and was the top scorer in the riding competition.

Cycling

Women's mountain bike: Norway's Gunn-Rita Dahle dominated for her 15th consecutive victory in an internationally sanctioned race. Since May 2003, Dahle — whose time was 1 hour, 56 minutes, 51 seconds — has won 28 of 32 races she's entered.

Mary McConnelough of Fairfield, Calif., the lone American in the Olympic women's field, placed ninth. Canada's Marie-Helene Prevue, Bulgaria's silver medalist, and Germany's gold medalist, Sabine Spitz, of Germany got the bronze in 1:59:21.

Olympics scoreboard

Friday's scores	
BASKETBALL	
Men	
Semifinals	
Argentina 88, United States 81	
10, Lithuania 91	
Women	
Semifinals	
Czech Republic 79, Spain 63	
Final	
United States 88, Argentina 64	
10th Place	
Australia 88, Brazil 75	
FIELD HOCKEY	
Men	
Semifinals	
Argentina 4, Egypt 2	
Final	
Britain 4, South Africa 3	
Women	
Semifinals	
Pakistan 4, New Zealand 3	
Final	
Germany 4, Spain 3	
10th Place	
Australia 2, Netherlands 1	
SOCCER	
Men	
Bronze Medal	
Italy 1, Iraq 1	
Men HANDBALL	
Final	
France 29, Spain 27	
Semifinals	
Croatia 33, Hungary 31	
Women	
Semifinals	
Denmark 29, Ukraine 20	
Final	
Italy 3, United States 2	
10th Place	
Kazakhstan 15, Egypt 7	

Classification

United States 4, Australia 1
Italy 11, Croatia 7

Hungary 7, Russia 5
Serbia-Montenegro 7, Greece 3

Boxing

81 kg Semifinals

Yurionks Gamboa, Cuba, def. Rustumdasho Rahimov, Georgia, 20-11.

Jerome Thomas, France, def. Fuzai Asif, Azerbaijan, 23-18.

Semifinals

Kim Song Gu, North Korea, def. Vitali Talbot, Germany, 25-24.

Alen Tichelchik, Russia, def. Jo Seok-Iwan, South Korea, 42-25.

64 kg Semifinals

Yudai Johnson Cedeno, Cuba, def. Boris Georgiev, Bulgaria, 13-9.

Maria Boorjooming, Thailand, def. Boris Georgiev, Bulgaria, 13-9.

75 kg Semifinals

Germady Golovkin, Kazakhstan, def. Andre Dorel, United States, 25-28.

Garysard Gaydarbayev, Russia, def. Sayrasta Prasthithipong, Thailand, 24-18.

Classification

Odianer Solis Fortis, Cuba, def. Nasser Al Sham, Syria, 30-29.

Viktor Zuyev, Belarus, def. Mohamed El-Sayed, Egypt, walkover.

Cycling

Women

1 km Time Trial

1. Gunn-Rita Dahle, Norway, 1:56:51.

2. Marie-Helene Prevue, Canada, 1:57:50.

3. Sabine Spitz, Germany, 1:59:21.

4. Alison Sykes, Canada, 1:59:47.

5. Elisabeth van Rooy-Vink, Netherlands, 2:01:56.

6. Majka Wozniacka, Poland, 2:02:08.

7. Ivonne Kraft, Germany, 2:06:18.

8. Laurence Lebouchere, France, 2:06:34.

9. Mary McConnelough, Fairfax, Calif., 2:06:12.

Taekwondo

Men's 68 kg: Hadi Saei Boneloh of Iran won the gold medal, beating Chih Hsiung Huang of Taiwan 4-3. Song Myeong-seob of South Korea got the bronze.

Women's 57 kg: Jang Ji-won of South Korea won the gold with a 2-1 victory over Nia Abdallah of the United States. Iridia Salazar Blanco of Mexico won the bronze.

Synchronized swimming

Team: Russia won the gold medal with a score of 99.501. Japan took the silver at 98.501. The United States got the bronze at 97.418.

Field hockey

Men: Jamie Dwyer's overtime goal gave Australia its first gold medal in the event.

In the bronze-medal game, Bjorn Micher scored in overtime to give Germany a 4-3 victory over Spain.

Modern pentathlon

Women

1. Zsuzsanna Vörös, Hungary (110, 916, 1296, 1214, 950), 5448.

2. Jelena Rublevska, Latvia (98, 1028, 1160, 1118), 5380.

3. Georgina Harland, Britain (95, 974, 1236, 1144), 5254.

4. Claudia Corsini, Italy (95, 974, 1236, 1116), 5204.

5. Kim Rainer, Germany (107, 832, 1264, 1116), 5202.

U.S. fliers

15. Mary Beth Lagorashin, Montenegro, Wis. (760, 832, 1252, 1144), 5052.

18. Anita Allen, Star City, Ind. (952, 720, 1108, 1172), 4996.

Canoe-Kayak

Men

Kayak Singles 1000

1. Erik Vermeulen, Norway, 3:25.897.

2. Ben Fouhy, New Zealand, 3:27.413.

3. Adam van Kooylen, Canada, 3:28.218.

4. Adam van Kooylen, Canada, 3:28.218.

5. Tim Brabants, Britain, 3:30.551.

6. Roland Kiser, Hungary, 3:31.121.

7. Emanuel Silva, Portugal, 3:31.862.

8. Bjorn Gutschmidt, Germany, 3:34.381.

9. Roi Yell, Israel, 3:43.489.

Canoe Singles 1000

1. David Cal, Spain, 3:46.201.

2. Andreas Dittmer, Germany, 3:46.721.

3. Attila Vajda, Hungary, 3:48.029.

4. Dusan Vukobratovic, Serbia, 3:50.405.

5. Stephen Giles, Canada, 3:51.427.

6. Dusan Vukobratovic, Serbia, 3:51.427.

7. Marian Ostroch, Slovakia, 3:54.028.

8. Karel Aguilera, Spain, 3:54.567.

9. Konstantin Fomich, Russia, 3:55.773.

Kayak Doubles 1000

1. Sweden (Mikael Oscarsson; Henrik Nilsson), 3:18.420.

2. Italy (Antonio Rosi; Beniamino Beniamini), 3:19.025.

3. Norway (Erik Vermeulen; Lars Olav Fjellheim), 3:19.525.

4. Australia (Daniel Collins; David Rhodes), 3:20.025.

5. Belgium (Wouter D'Haene; Bob Maes), 3:20.025.

6. Germany (Christian Gille; Tomasz Wylenzek), 3:40.802.

FIG skanks Hamm to give up gold

By EDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — World gymnastics officials asked Paul Hamm to give up his gold medal as the ultimate show of sportsmanship, but the U.S. Olympic Committee told them to take responsibility for their own mistakes and refused even to deliver the request.

In a dispute over scores that has turned into a political squabble, the head of the International Gymnastics Federation suggested in a letter to Hamm that giving the all-around gold medal to South Korea's Yang Tae-yong would be recognized as the ultimate demonstration of fair play by the whole world.

FIG president Bruno Grandi tried to send the letter Thursday night to Hamm through the USOC, which declined to pass it along.

In a letter back to Grandi, USOC secretary general Jim Scherr rejected the request "a blatant and inappropriate attempt on the part of (FIG) to once again shift responsibility for its own mistakes and instead pressure Mr. Hamm into resolving what has become an embarrassing situation for your federation."

The USOC finds this request to be improper, outrageous and so far beyond the bounds of what is acceptable that it refuses to transmit the letter to Mr. Hamm. The letter was sent to the USOC by FIG.

Hamm returned to the United States earlier this week. He de-

clined comment Friday through his agent, but he has said in the past that he has no interest of giving up his medal unless ordered to do so by FIG.

Yang, the bronze medalist, was wrongly docked a tenth of a point on his parallel bars routine and finished third, 0.049 points behind Hamm. Add the extra 0.100, and Yang would have finished 0.051 points ahead of Hamm.

Three judges were suspended after the error was discovered, but FIG said the results would stand.

Although Grandi's letter says, "The true winner of the all-around competition is Yang Tae-yong," the FIG president insisted he's not pressing Hamm.

"There is no doubt he has won the medal," Grandi said. "He deserves the medal and the ranking is clear. ... I respect totally Paul Hamm and all the decisions he makes. If he says give back the medal, I respect it. I don't give back the medal, I respect the decision. He is not responsible for anything."

The USOC had a much different interpretation.

"I don't know of any comparison in any sport anywhere where you crown an athlete, select a team and then say, 'Oh, that was a mistake. Would you fix this for us?'" USOC chairman Peter Ueberroth said.

Earlier in the week, the USOC said it was willing to consider supporting the South Koreans' bid for a medal. Ueberroth said that was no longer possible because of FIG's latest request.

Taekwondo

Men

Song Myeong-seob, South Korea, def. Chih Hsiung Huang, Taiwan, 4-3.

Gold Medal Contest

Hadi Saei Boneloh, Iran, def. Chih Hsiung Huang, Taiwan, 4-3.

Women

Iridia Salazar Blanco, Mexico, def. Sonia Reyes, Spain, 2-1.

Gold Medal

Jang Ji-won, South Korea, def. Nia Abdallah, United States, 2-1.

Thursday's results

Track and field

Men

1. Shawn Crawford, Tallahassee, Fla., 19.79.

2. Bernard Williams, Gainesville, Fla., 20.01.

3. Frank Fredericks, Namibia, 20.14.

4. Frank Fredericks, Namibia, 20.14.

5. Shaun Buckland, Mauritius, 20.24.

6. Shaun Buckland, Mauritius, 20.24.

7. Felix Sanchez, Dominican Republic, 20.24.

8. Felix Sanchez, Dominican Republic, 20.24.

9. James Carter, Hampton, Va., 48.00.

10. James Carter, Hampton, Va., 48.00.

11. Philip Dunn, San Diego, 41:49.

12. Philip Dunn, San Diego, 41:49.

13. Benjie Brazell, Baton Rouge, La., 49:51.

14. Benjie Brazell, Baton Rouge, La., 49:51.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Jones going home empty-handed

Five-time medalist in Sydney Games shut out in long jump, 400 relay

BY ROB GLOSTER

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — A botched relay handoff doomed Marion Jones' chances of winning a medal in the Athens Olympics, a disastrous ending to her summer of turmoil and disappointment.

Hoping to win a pair of golds Friday, Jones was shut out instead. An hour after she finished fifth in the long jump, Jones was unable to make the handoff in the 400-meter relay when Lauryn Williams left too early.

Williams was left grasping at air while Jones reached desperately for her teammate.

"It was an extremely disappointing performance for me. It exceeded my wildest dreams in a negative sense," Jones said. "I looked for great things this year. It didn't happen for me and it didn't happen for the team this year."

Tim Mack led a 1-2 American finish in the pole vault, clearing the Olympic record 19 feet, 6 1/4 inches. Toby Stevenson won the

silver medal with a vault of 19-4 1/4. Giuseppe Gibilisco of Italy took bronze with 19 feet, 2 1/4 inches.

The U.S. relay team, which had taken gold for granted and was aiming for a world record, could only watch as Jamaica won the gold in 41.73 seconds. Russia won the silver medal in 42.27. France got the bronze in 42.54.

Jones, running second, was close to the lead as she approached Williams. But Jones reached once, shouted "Wait! Wait!" as she reached a second time, then finally was able to give the baton to Williams on the third attempt — nearly running into her younger teammate.

By then Williams was already out of the 20-meter handoff zone, which means automatic disqualification.

The United States had won gold in every Olympic women's 400-meter race since 1984 — except for the 2000 Sydney Games, when the U.S. team lost to Jamaica. Jones and others resulted in a third-place finish.

Jones won five medals in Sydney, including three gold, to become an international superstar. But she gave birth to a son 14 months ago, interrupting her training, and then came under investigation by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. She failed to qualify for the Olympic 100 or 200 this year, leaving the long jump and relay as her only events.

She has repeatedly denied using performance-enhancing substances, but ex-husband C.J. Hunter reportedly has told federal agents Jones used banned drugs before, during and after the Sydney Games.

Jones had a chance for redemption on Friday as she tried to do in a few hours what few elite athletes can achieve in a lifetime — win two Olympic medals, one on the track and one on the field.

But she got progressively worse with each long jump, while Tatjana Lebedeva led an unprecedented Russian sweep of the field.

As Lebedeva and her compatriots took a victory lap, Jones

walked around the track in the opposite direction — toward the practice track, where her relay teammates awaited.

Brownwyn Thompson of Australia, who was fourth, said all the pressures on Jones seem to have changed the once-invincible champion.

"She doesn't seem to have the same aura as she used to. And she doesn't exude the same sort of confidence as she used to," Thompson said.

"It probably has to do with her head was at because of the controversy surrounding her. I think it was very difficult for her to get her head in the right place tonight."

In the 110-meter hurdles, Liu Xiang of China tied the world record and broke the Olympic record by 0.4 seconds while winning in 12.91. American Terrence Trammell won silver for the second straight Olympics, finishing way behind Liu in 13.18, and defending champion Amir Garcia of Cuba took bronze in 13.20.

Other winners were Robert Ko-



Marion Jones, left, of the U.S. relay team, fails to pass the baton to Lauryn Williams in the second turn of the women's 400-meter relay final Friday. The U.S. did not finish the race, Jamaica won the gold in 41.73 seconds, ahead of Russia and France.

zreniowski of Poland, who took his third consecutive gold medal in the 50-kilometer walk; Osleidys Menéndez of Cuba in the javelin; and Xing Hui of China in the women's 10,000.

No gold: Long fall for United States team since Barcelona Games

NO GOLD, FROM BACK PAGE

The Argentines were better passers, shooters and defenders than the Americans. They controlled them with a mixture of man-to-man and zone defenses, and confounded them with an assortment of back picks and deft passes that turned the start of the second half into a layup drill.

Argentina's players celebrated wildly when the game ended, and the crowd yelled "Ole!"

U.S. coach Larry Brown walked around and gave a banana and hug to his Argentine counterpart, Ruben Magnano, who played for Argentina against the first Dream Team in Barcelona.

"Our rival today was extremely tough, but in the few hours that passed between yesterday's game and today's, we realized that nothing was impossible," Magnano said. "We had to go out there and attack them on an equal footing, go for them. That's what we did, and that's why we won."

NBA Commissioner David Stern attended the third loss of the Athens Games for the Americans, who entered the tournament with a 109-2 Olympic record.

Their 19-point loss to Puerto Rico in the opener was shocking, and their second defeat, to Lithuania, finally hammered home a message to the team's young players that the level of competition was a whole lot better than they had imagined.

The U.S. team's best effort came Thursday in a victory over previously undefeated Spain.

But just a day later, they went back to missing three-point shots, lost Tim Duncan to foul trouble,

didn't get a breakout performance from any of their players and couldn't make a sustained comeback after they fell behind by a double-digit margin.

The Americans gave Argentina credit for the fact that remained that a big part of the U.S. team's loss was its fundamental weaknesses: a lack of familiarity with each other, poor defense and abysmal outside shooting.

It showed that the quarterfinal victory over Spain was an aberration, not an awakening.

"I don't know if we'd have beaten them if Timmy had played 40 minutes — though I'd have liked to have had that chance," Brown said. "Basketball has been getting better around the world because of what the Dream Team did in '92, and rather than knocking our guys we should give credit to the guys who won."

The results might have been different if the Americans had fielded a team of their best players, but injuries, indifference and insecurities left many of the best Americans — including Shaquille O'Neal, Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen and Jason Kidd — back in the United States.

"In 1992, the USA had the best players ever. Here they are the best players, too, but they are young and inexperienced internationally, so with different rules it's a whole different thing," said Ginobili, who also plays for the San Antonio Spurs.

The rest of the world is getting better and the States isn't bringing their best players."

Argentina shot 54 percent overall and 11-for-22 from three-point range, while the Americans fin-

ished just 32-for-77 (42 percent) and 3-for-11 on threes. After scoring 31 points against Spain, Stephon Marbury led the U.S. team with 18, and Duncan had just 10 — being limited to 19 1/2 minutes.

"You can't just show up at a basketball game and feel that because you have USA across your chest you're going to win the game," Iverson said. "It means a lot to other teams out here to get a medal as well."

The first half ended with Argentina ahead 43-38 after its big men outplayed the Americans and showed themselves capable of as much flair as anyone.

The half's prettiest play came on the 3-on-1 break when Hugo Sanchez, one of the team's elder statesmen, tossed a nifty behind-the-back pass to Alejandro Montecchia for a high-arching layup over Richard Jefferson that gave Argentina a 42-33 lead.

The Americans shot just 36 percent in the first half and didn't hit their first three-pointer — missing their first five — until LeBron James made one 30 seconds before halftime.

The third quarter began with Ginobili hitting a wide-open three-pointer. Duncan picking up his third foul, Luis Scola, Ginobili and Fabricio Oberto getting inside for layups, and Marbury clanging a driving shot off the side of the backboard.

Suddenly, the U.S. was down 53-40 and on the verge of having the game get away from it.

It soon did. Duncan was whistled for his fourth foul with 7:41 left in the third quarter, causing Brown to jump out of his chair

and scream "NO!"

Next came a wide-open three from the right corner by Ginobili, and the lead was up to 16.

The Americans quickly got their deficit down to six, but Montecchia and Ruben Wolkowyski knocked down threes, and Ginobili added a rare four-point play — just like the one from Lithuania's Sarunas Jasikevicius that

doomed the Americans in their opening-round loss — to make it 70-57 after three quarters.

The Argentines trailed 76-65 with five minutes left when Duncan fouled out for hitting Ginobili with a hip check. The U.S. team went to a trap and a full-court press in an effort to climb back, but Argentina handled it with aplomb and didn't let the Americans get closer than eight.

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Suzuki shows greatness in two cultures

After starring in Japan, he's now among the best in majors

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Ichiro Suzuki showed he was a great hitter as soon as he arrived in the United States. Now he's proving to be one of the best in baseball history.

Suzuki became the first player to reach 200 hits in each of his first four major league seasons when he homered Thursday night in the Seattle Mariners' 7-3 loss to

the Kansas City Royals.

"The guy is unreal," Royals manager Tony Pena said.

"He's a natural."

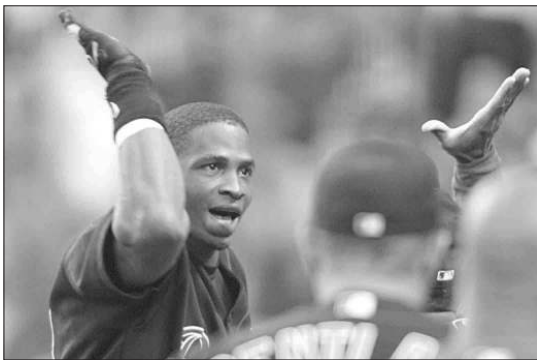
After playing nine seasons in Japan, Suzuki came to Seattle in 2001 and finished with 242 hits, most in the majors since 1930.

He had 208 hits in 2002 and 212 last season. With 36 games to go, he has a shot to break the big league record of 257 set by George Sisler of the St. Louis Browns in 1920.

"At this point, I'm not going to think about that at all," the 30-year-old Suzuki said through a translator. "I think you have goals that you can see and that goal is just too far for me to see."

Suzuki sent the first pitch from reliever Jeremy Affeldt over the right-center fence in the ninth inning for his seventh career home run. "That brought chants of 'Ichiro! Ichiro!' from the crowd of 30,962."

The 2001 AL MVP and four-time All-Star finished 1-for-5 and leads the AL with a



Kansas City's Abraham Nunez is congratulated after hitting a grand slam Thursday night against Seattle.

.364 batting average. He went 0-for-11 after getting his 199th hit Tuesday night against Tampa Bay.

Suzuki had 210 hits in 130 games in Japan in 1994, the only time he had 200 hits in his native country. He reached the milestone this year in his 125th game.

"In Japan, at about the 120th game, I had 201 hits," Suzuki said. "To go to about the same pace and do the same thing over here, I didn't imagine doing that."

"I've learned many things," he said. "I feel like my skills have gone up and I'm very happy with the way I've progressed."

Abraham Nunez hit his second grand slam in two weeks to lead Kansas City.

Rangers 8, Twins 3: While Suzuki has made hitting look easy since joining the Mariners, Chan Ho Park has had a hard time finding any success since signing a

\$65 million, five-year contract with Texas before the 2002 season. He enjoyed a warm moment Thursday night, when he returned from a long stint on the disabled list and beat visiting Minnesota.

"It was great," Park said after his 13th victory since signing with Texas. "I understand there has been a lot of disappointment from the fans. I had so much fun today."

Park (3-4) allowed two runs and four hits in six innings to win for the first time since May 12

against Tampa Bay. The 31-year-old right-hander went on the disabled list May 20 with a sore back.

Park, who had not won at home since Sept. 12, 2002, warmed up to start the seventh and was relieved by Ron Mahay. Park received a standing ovation and wore a big grin as he walked toward the dugout.

He has been on the disabled list five times since joining the Rangers. He never was on the DL in six full seasons with Los Angeles. "It was good for him to be able to smile," Texas manager Buck Showalter said. "It was something we wanted to see. He's had a lot of negative crawling around him."

Hank Blalock homered for the fifth time in six games and Texas (71-55) equalled its victory total from last year. He and Alfonso Soriano each had three RBIs for the Rangers, who are 2½ games behind first-place Oakland in the AL West and two games behind Boston in the wild-card race.

Athletics 6, Orioles 4: Erubiel Durazo hit a three-run homer and Eric Chavez also connected to help the Athletics complete a four-game sweep and send visiting Baltimore to its 10th straight loss.

Barry Zito (10-9) won for the third time in four starts and the A's earned their ninth victory in 10 games. Scott Hatteberg added a three-run double for Oakland, which swept the season series 7-0.

All-Star shortstop Miguel Tejada, who left Oakland to sign with Baltimore during the offseason, went 1-for-15 in the series.

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 4: Alex Rodriguez hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the ninth off Jason Frasor (4-4) as the visiting Yankees overcame a 4-0 deficit and remained 5½ games ahead of Boston in the AL East. New York has won seven times this year after trailing by at least four runs. C.J. Nitkowski (1-1) got his first victory with the Yankees. Mariano Rivera earned his major league-leading 44th save.

Red Sox 4, Tigers 1: Bronson Arroyo (7-9) allowed only an unearned run and six hits in 7½ innings and the host Red Sox won for the ninth time in 10 games to move a season-best 20 games over .500.

White Sox 14, Indians 9: Carl Everett homered and drove in four runs, sending the host Indians to their 10th loss in 11 games. Ben Davis and Juan Uribe also connected for Chicago, which tied Cleveland for second place in the AL Central. Paul Konerko had three hits and three RBIs.

Beltran leads long-ball show vs. Cubs

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Carlos Beltran hit two home runs and three other Houston players also homered off Kerry Wood as the Astros beat Chicago 15-7 on Friday, snapping the Cubs' five-game winning streak.

Jeff Bagwell and Lance Berkman hit back-to-back solo homers off Wood, and Jeff Kent added a homer as Houston won for the ninth time in 12 games, moving back to within six games of Chicago in the National League wild-card race.

Beltran hit a solo homer in the first inning and a three-run shot in the ninth, giving him home runs in five straight games.

Roy Oswalt (15-9) allowed six runs in eight innings to get the victory on a hot, muggy day, retiring 13 batters in a row from the fourth inning until two outs in the eighth. David Weathers pitched the ninth.

Houston jumped on Wood (7-6) for four runs in the first inning on the way to battering him for eight

NL Roundup

runs on eight hits in 4½ innings. Besides giving up four homers, Wood walked two and hit a batter while striking out four.

Beltran's first-inning homer went into the right-field bleachers, one of his four hits. It was his 19th since joining the Astros and 34th overall. Then he connected again in the ninth as the Astros turned the game into a rout.

After Beltran connected in the first, Wood gave up a run-scoring single to Kent and a two-run double to Morgan Ensberg to make it 4-0 after just six batters.

Nomar Garciaparra drove in three runs for Chicago with a run-scoring single in the first and a two-run homer in the eighth. Derrek Lee added his 28th homer for the Cubs in the third inning.

In Thursday's NL games:

Bodgers 10, Expos 3: Adrian Beltre hit his major league-high 41st homer and Steve Finley had

three hits and four RBIs as the Dodgers gained a split of a four-game series.

Jeff Weaver (12-10) improved to 5-0 in his last six starts, allowing three runs and five hits in six innings and hitting a two-run single in a seven-run sixth.

Livan Hernandez (9-12) walked two batters with the bases loaded in the sixth, putting the Dodgers ahead 5-3, and allowed eight runs — six earned — in 5½ innings.

Giants 5, Marlins 0: Brett Tomko (2-6) pitched a four-hitter at Miami for his first career shut-out, striking out four and walking one in his first complete game this season. He is 5-0 in seven starts against the Marlins, who fell seven games behind the Cubs.

Ray Durham hit a two-run homer, Josh Beckett (5-8) lasted just 5½ innings and departed trailing 4-0.

Reds 1, Cardinals 0: Aaron Harang (8-6) pitched a three-hitter for his first career complete game and Sean Casey homered in the

sixth off Chris Carpenter (13-5).

Carpenter also pitched a three-hitter, striking out 11 in his first complete game since July 29, 2002, with Toronto at Kansas City. Also a loss.

Host Cincinnati took two of three from the Cardinals, who had won eight straight series since dropping two of three July 23-25 at home against San Francisco.

Braves 6, Rockies 4: Mike Hampton (10-9) helped himself with an RBI single and Atlanta, heading toward its 13th straight division title, increased its NL East lead to a season-high 9½ games. The host Braves completed a three-game sweep and stretched its winning streak to four. Visiting Colorado lost its fourth straight.

Hampton is 9-3 against Colorado, where he played in 2001-02. He allowed six hits and four walks in six innings, but gave up only two runs. John Smoltz pitched the ninth for his 34th save.



Kerry Wood had an exasperating Friday against Houston, allowing four home runs in a 15-7 defeat.

July 12 — All-Star Game, Detroit.

SPORTS



Wide receiver Williams kept
from returning to Southern Cal
by NCAA, Page 38



U.S. players Allen Iverson, left, and Tim Duncan watch from the bench during the second half of Friday's 89-81 loss to Argentina in the men's basketball semifinals.

No gold for U.S. men

Argentina relegates Americans to bronze-medal game

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Bronze is the best the United States men can do in basketball, and the reason is simple: A hastily assembled assortment of NBA stars couldn't beat a better team — Argentina.

Manu Ginobili scored 29 points to lead his nation to another victory over the coun-

try that used to dominate the sport, an 89-81 victory in the Olympic semifinals Friday night.

For the first time since 1988, the gold medal will not go to the Americans.

And for the first time since pro players were added for the original Dream Team in 1992, the United States will not be the Olympic champion.

"We fought as hard as we could. We

couldn't get it done for whatever reason. They were a better team than us," Allen Iverson said.

Argentina, with almost the same roster that made history in 2002 by becoming the first team to defeat a U.S. squad of NBA players, will play for the gold against Italy, which defeated Lithuania 100-91. The U.S. will play Lithuania for third place.

SEE NO GOLD ON PAGE 44

The goodbye girls

Women's soccer's Fab Five gold to the last drop

ATHENS, Greece
In bidding goodbye to those would-be has-beens Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy, Brandi Chastain, Kristine Lilly and Joy Fawcett, the most proper tribute is to raise an adult beverage: blow the foam from the top, swallow deeply and caress with laughter. That's no doubt what they're off doing right now, revealing as they tell the alternately brave and comedic story of their self-made miracle of pride, the U.S. women's national soccer team. But here's the thing about has-beens. If you make yourself unforgettable, you never have to be one.

Sally Jenkins



They played together for their country one last time in the Olympics, and somehow, some way, they won a last, late gold medal, and the ball was still rolling across the pitch we began to miss them. Patently slower and not quite what they once were, ranging in age from 32 to 36, there seemed to be absolutely no way they could win against a fleet and sure-footed Brazilian team that was, on average, 10 years younger. But just when there was nothing left in their legs but the sensation of age, a youngster named Abby Wambach headed in a goal in the 112th minute, for a 2-1 victory that sent them out of the game as forever champions.

"We just said, 'We're going out on top, and that's how it's going to be,'" said Foudy, her hair dripping wet under a fisherman's cap, "and we never stopped believing it."

In those last seemingly interminable minutes, the soccer wasn't glorious, but it was tough and it was determined, and the player most representative of that was midfielder and team captain Foudy, who a day earlier was on crutches with a badly sprained ankle. "I think I'll just have them chop it off and I'll drag my stump out there if I have to," Foudy had joked. In fact, she played every last minute of this game, and in doing so reminded



Mia Hamm of the United States pauses while waiting for the medal ceremony Thursday after the U.S. beat Brazil 2-1 in overtime for the gold medal. Hamm, Julie Foudy and Joy Fawcett are retiring from international soccer. Brandi Chastain and Kristine Lilly are undecided.

SEE GOODBYE ON PAGE 42

Medal count

Leaders after 256 medal events in the 2004 Olympics through Friday, Aug. 27:

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	29	34	27	90
Russia	17	23	28	68
China	27	17	13	57
Australia	17	11	16	44
Germany	12	14	18	44
Japan	15	10	10	35
France	10	7	11	28
Italy	9	7	10	26
South Korea	8	10	8	26
Britain	7	8	11	26

More inside:

■ Marion Jones will leave Athens Games without a medal, Page 44

■ U.S. light heavy Ward reaches final bout; middleweight Dirrell settles for bronze, Page 41



World gymnastics officials ask Hamm to give up all-around gold

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Jury selection begins in Bryant sex assault trial

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